

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH CORBRIDGE

England & Wales · Charity number 1133723

Details

Other names	ST. ANDREW'S PCC
Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2010-01-25
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	St. Andrews Cottage Hill Street Corbridge NE45 5AA
Phone	01434634095
Email	CORBRIDGECHURCHOFFICE@BTINTERNET.COM
Website	www.corbridgeparishchurch.org.uk

Activities

Objects: Promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church.

Activities: Regular public worship open to all. The provision of space for personal prayer and contemplation. Teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups. Pastoral work, taking of religious assemblies in schools, promoting the whole mission of the church. Supporting other charities in the UK and overseas.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE, LOCAL.
- Northumberland

Finances

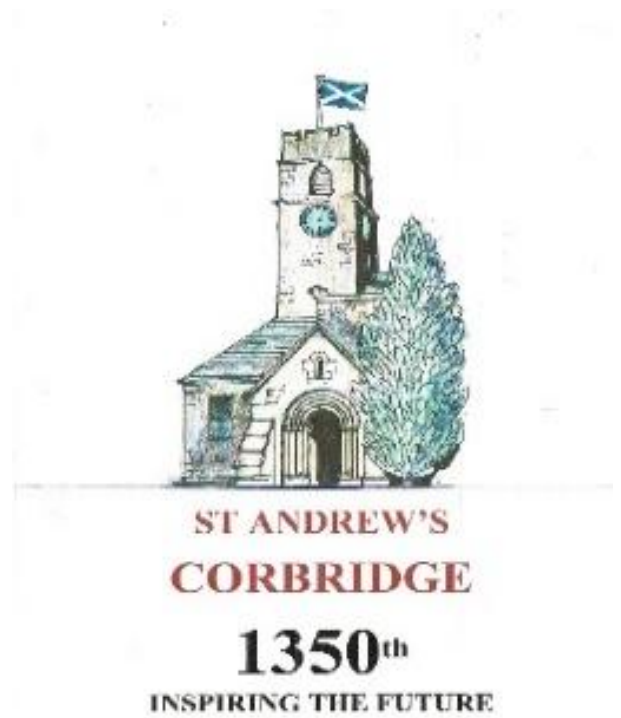
Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£348,219	£252,170	-	-
2023-12-31	£229,535	£193,035	-	-
2022-12-31	£186,120	£176,109	-	-
2021-12-31	£186,686	£159,953	-	-
2020-12-31	£228,960	£250,382	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev David John Kennedy	Chair	2018-07-13
Alice Bryant		2022-05-15
David McEwan		2020-09-13
Edward Pybus		2017-04-02
Jennifer Lansberry		2024-05-05
John Wilson		2022-05-15
Josephine Eldridge		2021-05-23
Karen Harkness		2024-05-05
LINDA ELIZABETH HUNTER		
MAXWELL JOHN PHILBRICK		2014-04-27
Peter Cook		2024-05-05
Richard Adams		2025-05-18

Accounts

**The Parish of St. Andrew's Corbridge with St. Oswald, Halton
and Newton Hall**



ANNUAL REPORT
for year ending
31st March 2025

Incumbent

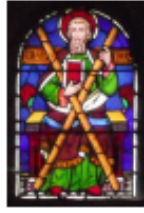
Canon Dr David J Kennedy

Bank

Lloyds Bank, Priestpopple, Hexham. NE46 1PA

Barclays Bank, Priestpopple, Hexham. NE46 1PA

Welcome



Look for this window high on the west wall of our tower. St Andrew was the first disciple chosen by Jesus, and brother to Peter.

As a community of Christians here in Corbridge, we are the latest in a centuries-old thread of belief and worship. As you visit St Andrew's, we invite you to explore with us...

FAITH

We have faith in a God of truth and beauty. God longs for us to know how deep his love is for every one of us.

LIFE

Jesus promises us life in all its fullness. On the cross he took on himself our wrong-doing so we can receive God's forgiveness. He rose again so we can share his life, through the Holy Spirit.



Look for the cross on the wall behind our altar. It shows the risen Christ, as King of creation.

PURPOSE

As Christians we are people of hope. We believe God has a good purpose for each of us and for all his creation.

COMMUNITY

We are people learning how to follow Jesus. Our life together is built round worship and prayer, friendship and acceptance.

Would you like to know more about our Faith, Life, Purpose and Community? Please take one of our leaflets. Look for this heart symbol around the church for opportunities to read and reflect or pray while you visit.



ANNUAL REPORTS

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Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church Meeting held in St Andrew's Church, Corbridge on Sunday 5th May 2024 at 11.10am

Present:

Canon David Kennedy (Chair), Rev'd Sam Lochhead, Rev'd Linda Hunter, Rev'd Claire Robson and 38 laity.

MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

This meeting was for the election of Churchwardens, for which anyone voting must be either resident in the parish or on the electoral register. There were two nominations:

- David McEwan, proposed by Bob Eldridge, seconded by Pauline Bennett.
- Peter Cook, proposed by Colin Williams, seconded by Nicki Swart.

Both were elected unanimously. David Kennedy thanked Jean Wilks as retiring churchwarden, and David McEwan who was continuing in post, and he welcomed Peter Cook and thanked him for all he will bring to the role.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

1. Apologies:

Ian Graves, Sue Graves, Janet Kennedy, Carol Moffatt, Sally Moffatt, Mandy Norton, Louise Stubbs.

2. Minutes of meeting held on Sunday 15th May 2022

Acceptance was proposed by Nicki Swart, seconded by Jo Eldridge, and agreed unanimously. There were no matters arising. David said Carol Moffatt was retiring as Minutes Secretary, and he thanked her for 7 years of service in this role.

3. Financial Statement

Cliff Wright spoke to the report and accounts. He said the overall balance stood at £36,500 higher than last year, mainly due to a generous capital donation of £25,000 towards the planned Lady Chapel project, and also due to a surplus of £12,000 of income over expenditure. Although it was encouraging to end the year in credit, we must be mindful of continuing increases in our operational costs, especially administration (due to the appointment of our Parish Administrator), rising energy costs, and increases to the Parish Share. He thanked all who support him in his role as Treasurer, and Mike Collins who examines the accounts.

David thanked Cliff for all his work in managing our finances. He also thanked all those who give financial support to the church, through donations and by supporting fundraising initiatives.

Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Liz Collins, seconded by Gail Williams and agreed unanimously.

4. Electoral Roll

David thanked Maureen Davison for maintaining the electoral roll which now stands at 174. During the year, 6 new names have been added and 4 have been discontinued. Acceptance of the electoral roll was proposed by Linda Hunter, seconded by Warwick Milne, and agreed unanimously.

5. Annual reports.

David said the full annual report was available in print and on the website. He thanked Linda and Hilary Hunter for compiling it, and all who had contributed reports; they show how much is being done in all the various church groups and activities, and the time and commitment this involves. In particular, the report shows how well we are recovering from the pandemic, in that we appear to have returned to pre-Covid activity levels. This was a good year, from which we can now move on to our 1,350th anniversary celebrations.

Bob Eldridge suggested the church should explore new ways of generating a substantial income stream; David said any ideas and expertise in this area would be very welcome.

David took the opportunity to thank everyone who contributes to all aspects of worship and activity in the parish, including formal worship and services, pastoral work, music, church council and committees, informal groups, maintenance of buildings and fabric, safety and safeguarding, and finance and administration; also those who engage with the wider community, e.g. by working with schools, the community hub, Tea & Chat, website, social media and publicity.

6. Elections.

(i) Deanery Synod. Current representatives were Janet Kennedy and Alice Stephenson.

There was still one vacancy, for which there were no nominations.

(ii) Parochial Church Council (PCC). Three members had completed their 3-year term of office: Val Barnes, Jo Eldridge and Edward Pybus. David thanked them all for their contribution and hard work. There were 3 new nominations:

- Edward Pybus (standing again to represent Halton), proposed by Cliff Wright, seconded by Jean Wilks;
- Alistair Lishman, proposed by Jean Wilks, seconded by Pauline Bennett;
- Karen Harkness, proposed by Jean Wilks, seconded by Pauline Bennett.

All were elected unanimously. This left two further vacancies, one for a 3-year term and one for a 2-year term, for which there were no further nominations. There was also a vacancy for Minutes Secretary.

7. Appointment of Independent Examiner:

Mike Collins said he was happy to remain as independent examiner. His reappointment was proposed by Jean Wilks, seconded by Bob Eldridge and agreed unanimously.

8. Any Other Business.

Jean Wilks thanked David for his inspirational leadership, and Janet for giving of her time so generously to support him.

There being no further business, the meeting closed in prayer.



I am delighted to present my seventh Annual Report on the life of St Andrew's and Halton. We are in the midst of our 1350th Anniversary celebration, with a diverse and creative programme of services, events and exhibitions over the summer and autumn. We look forward to welcoming many hundreds of people through our doors.

The 1350 celebratory year began with a memorable introductory weekend last October, marking St Wilfrid's Day. The Saturday included guided tours, and then the formal opening with my talk on St Wilfrid our Founder, the cutting of the cake with bubbles, afternoon tea and then a special Evening Prayer recalling Wilfrid's monastery. On Sunday, Bishop Helen-Anne joined us for a special Service of Thanksgiving, adorned by splendid music from our augmented choir (including Hubert *Parry's I was glad* and Ernest Bullock's *Give us the faith to rise within the veil*) and a memorable rendition of *Ten Thousand Reasons* by our splendid Corbridge CE First School choir. This was followed by a congregational lunch. In preparation, we worked hard on new signage for St Andrew's with a new welcome banner, interpretation stands, and leaflets setting out our Church values: Faith, Life, Purpose and Community, and a new prayer pilgrimage leaflet. A series of monthly displays has shed a light on various aspects of Church and Village life. The Christmas Tree Festival was given a 1350 twist with 135 trees, and the singing of 135 different carols. We reflected on 1350 Christmases at our Carol Services. In 2025, a new team of Church Guides has been trained, and we have begun our series of evening talks on aspects of the history of Church and Village. Lent, Holy Week and Easter included special sermon series and addresses at Compline, and our monthly *River* Gatherings have focussed on biblical Saints. Before us are the Art Exhibition of works by Helen Alice Johnson *Our Beautiful World*, the art installation *Caporetto*, a sculpted Installation of bells by Keith Roberts to compliment our War Memorial and the 80th Anniversary of VE Day, the June Flower Festival, a series of musical events, and the Heritage Week in September *Telling the Story of Corbridge*. Our year will conclude with a special weekend of events in October, when Bishop Mark will be with us. I am grateful for the hard work and commitment of so many, from both Church and community, in making this programme possible.

Worship

Worship continues to be at the heart of everything we do. The new Sunday afternoon 4pm pattern, begun in 2024, is now well-established with monthly Messy Church and our *River* gatherings, and Simply Worship (a simple Service of the Word with expository preaching on the Bible) on other Sundays. It has been great to see members of the Church developing their gifts in leading, music-making, and exploring faith, particularly at *River*. We now have a great music group at River, led by Paul Morris. Our Sunday morning pattern of services continues with a twice monthly 8am Prayer Book Communion, the 10am Parish Communion with organ and choir, and our monthly service at Halton. The Wednesday midweek Communion continues to be well supported. We work hard to ensure that our standards of presentation, preaching and intercessory prayer are high. Our Church

Choir, one of the few remaining SATB choirs in Northumberland, shows tremendous commitment and we are blessed by our Director of Music and two organists in keeping musical standards as high as we can. It is clear to me from Scripture that the early Church from its earliest days met to break bread on the Lord's Day and this has continued in the largest Christian communions down the centuries. At the Eucharist, we first break open God's word, we bring to him the whole world, our nation and local community in engaged intercessory prayer, and then bring all of this into union with Christ's one, perfect Sacrifice on the Cross for the salvation of the world. This keeps thanksgiving, the Cross and the sacramental Presence of the risen Lord at the very heart and centre of our Church life. But I am delighted that we now have very different styles of worship at St Andrew's, both more formal and more informal.

During the past year, we have been delighted to welcome our outgoing CMS mission partners Phil and Sylvie Good who have now retired and their successors Andrew and Lisa Peart, who are serving with CMS in Santa Cruz in Bolivia. Both visits were memorable in reminding us of the world Church to which we belong.

We have continued to hold two services of Prayer and the Laying on of hands and anointing for healing, and to celebrate the richness of the liturgical year with imagination through word and symbol. The two major festivals continue to be well-supported. For Christmas 2024, approximate attendances were as follows:

	Adults	Children
Carols for all in the churchyard	371	30
Middle School Carols (2 services)	290	340
First School Carols	150	130
Crib Service	130	120
Festival of Carols & Lessons	470	30
Midnight Mass	60	
8.00 Christmas Day	17	
Christmas Day at Halton	43	10
Christmas Day Family Communion	73	12
Total	1604	672

The combined total of worshippers for Easter Day at St Andrew's and Halton was 215.

People

In June we bade farewell to the Revd Sam Lohead as he left us to become Priest-in-Charge of Seaton Hirst in Ashington. We continue to remember Sam with great affection. In September, the Revd Barbara McNamara celebrated the 30th anniversary of her ordination as priest (and indeed the 30th anniversary of ordination of the first women priests) where the preacher was the Revd Dr Gill Alexander. To have four women priests (Barbara, Linda, Claire and Gill) leading worship that day was poignant. Jennifer Wright has continued her role as Pastoral Assistant, and Diane Wylie has contributed to our preaching and teaching ministry. Hilary Hunter sadly resigned as Parish Administrator because of other work commitments, but we were delighted to welcome Frances Stride

as her successor in August. Frances is now well-established in the Parish Office and her cheerful presence is greatly appreciated. Charlotte Alexander continues as our excellent Church and Cottage Cleaner. We were saddened by the death of a number of worshipping members of our Church community over the recent year, notably Daphne Anderson, Elizabeth Wood, Margaret Doubleday, Maureen Price, Evelyn Charlton and Gail Williams. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

Mission and Ministry

There are many aspects to our Mission and Ministry as illustrated by the Annual Report document. In addition, we have continued our periodic *Exploring the Bible* group studies, studying the Second Coming of Jesus in the Gospels and Paul in the late autumn and Temple theology during Lent. Throughout Lent and Holy Week, at our special evening services, we were enriched by reflections on the temptations and Passion of Jesus by the priest and poet Malcolm Guite from his book *Sounding the Seasons*. We continue our Schools' ministry in all the Schools in the Parish, bringing us into contact with hundreds of local children.

I would like to high-light our ministry through the occasional offices. We are fortunate that many people still value greatly the ministry of the Church around birth, marriage, sickness and death. We take great care in ensuring that we are offering the highest standards of pastoral care for these important occasions. So, for those requesting baptism, we do a home visit and then invite parents (and godparents where practical) to come to Church so that we can talk through the baptism service and explain its meaning and symbolism. We give three sessions of Wedding Preparation to our wedding couples, in addition to a rehearsal, and they all comment how very valuable those sessions are in preparing them both for the wedding day but also for the serious and life-long commitment that marriage entails. Our funeral services are carefully planned with the family of the bereaved, with many returning to Church for the annual All-Souls' memorial service. The Garden of Remembrance continues to be well used as a final resting place and ministry to the dying has been a particular focus of Linda's ministry over the last year. Accompanying people at the end of life is a huge privilege. In all of these meetings and services and in our preaching we aim to give sensitive and pastoral witness to the faith that the Church proclaims. They are genuinely missional occasions.

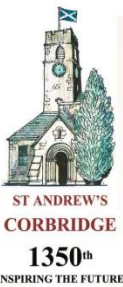
The Wider Deanery

I have now served as Area Dean for six years, but I have agreed with the Bishop that I will lay this aspect of my ministry down on 31 October. It has been a privilege to serve the Deanery but it is a large and sometimes time-consuming ministry. Linda will also pass on the baton as Deanery Secretary. Linda very kindly offered to be Acting Deanery Secretary when the last Secretary relocated to Scotland in 2019. And she has continued in this 'acting' capacity ever since! But Linda has done a magnificent job and has been a first-class support to the Deanery as a whole and to my role as Area Dean. We have also passed on the baton of pastoral care for Slaley and Healey to the Vicar of Riding Mill, but Linda and I continue to look after Whittonstall. Whittonstall has festival services only (for both School and Parish) but a very engaged if small PCC who are looking, along with the wider Whittonstall Community group, to develop the Church building both as a place of worship but developing the nave as a Village Hall. To achieve this will require a major renovation.

Conclusion

So, in this very special year, I hope you can sense in this whole Annual Report the energy that continues to drive forward the work of this Parish. We are fortunate to have a happy and co-operative culture in the life of our Church, to which so many people contribute in so many ways. We still face big challenges, especially in attracting younger people, children, teenagers and younger adults into our regular Church life. We seek to minister with integrity, care and I hope Christ-likeness in a very difficult context, not least through the sins of the Church which have brought so much negative publicity over the last year. I can simply say that I am proud of our Safeguarding Team, the PCC, and especially Linda's role in ensuring our compliance and the very highest Safeguarding standards for this Parish. We will continue to do everything we can to show the love and care of Christ and beauty of faith to this community. Please pray that our work will continue to bear fruit and bring glory to the great God we serve.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.



This is an exciting time for our church and village as we approach the year of celebrations to mark the 1350th anniversary of the Foundation of St Andrew's in Corbridge by St Wilfrid in around 674-5. Our year long celebration will run from October 2024 to October 2025. While most of the special events and activities will be held in 2025, we will begin this month (October) with our opening weekend and highlights such as the Christmas Tree Festival from November 29 to December 3.

Many of our regular events will also have a 1350 twist. We would like to invite the whole community to share in this remarkable anniversary. We begin on St Wilfrid's Day, Saturday October 12, with our opening weekend:

Saturday October 12th:

During the morning the church will be open from 9:30am with displays and guided tours at 10am, 11am and Noon. The formal opening will be from 3pm in church:

- 3pm: Welcome and introduction to 1350
- 3:15pm: Talk by the Vicar, Canon David Kennedy: 'God's Rotweiler, St Wilfrid, Bishop and Bruiser!'
- 3:50pm: The cutting of the 1350 cake
- 4pm: Afternoon tea, bubbles and cake
- 4:35pm: Short act of worship recalling St Wilfrid's Monastery
- 5pm: Close

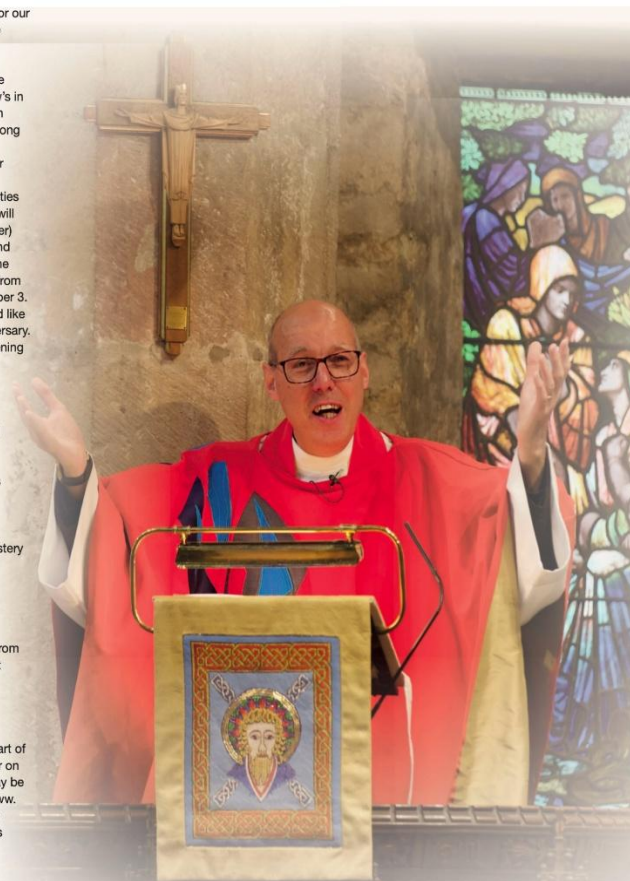
Sunday October 13th:

- 8am: Holy Communion
- 10:30am: 1350th Festival Opening Celebration with the Bishop of Newcastle, Dr Helen-Ann Hartley, and music from our augmented choir and the choir of Corbridge CE First School
- 11:40am: Drinks reception
- 12:10pm: Light lunch

If you would like to attend on Saturday or Sunday and are not part of our regular mailing list, contact Frances our Parish Administrator at admin@corbridgechurch.org.uk or btinternet.com. Invitations and flyers may be found at the back of church or downloaded from the website www.corbridgechurch.org.uk. A brochure with full details of all we are planning will be distributed to every home in the Parish early this month (October).

Christmas Tree Festival 2024

This year we aim to make our Christmas Tree Festival even bigger and better than usual by showcasing 135 trees. We hope that families might like to enter a family tree - they don't need to be huge trees. In fact if we have small ones they can go on the ledges and fit into



spaces. Can you imagine how wonderful our beautiful church will look? Watch out for application forms which will be available very soon. In addition we would like to sing 135 Christmas Carols during the Festival...you might like to participate.

Exhibitions

There will be a series of exhibitions on St Andrew's and Corbridge in the church during the autumn and throughout 2025. This will culminate in a Heritage Week in September 2025 when we will be inviting shops, organisations and groups to put up a display representing their heritage. More about that soon!

Do you enjoy singing?

We are inviting any members of the community who would like to join with our church choir on Sunday 13th October. We will be singing the iconic I Was Glad by Hubert Parry and Give Me The Faith To Rise Within The Veil by Ernest Bullock, as well as some plainsong recalling the monastery St Wilfrid founded. Please contact our Director of Music Colin Williams on colin.williams46@outlook.com for further details. Also see the poster on Pg 8.

1350 Flower Festival - June 19th to 22nd 2025

A Flower Festival depicting 1350 years of St Andrew's and the village will showcase the skills of flower arrangers in the area. Would you like to be involved? Would you or your business be willing to sponsor a flower arrangement telling the story of St Andrew's and Corbridge? Please contact the Parish Office for further details.

A Flower Cascade

As part of our Flower Festival we plan to have a cascade of crafted flowers draped down over the roof of the church porch. If you would like to make some flowers please do collect a pattern from church or download from the website - what a magnificent sight it will be to see hundreds of flowers cascading over the roof.

Interpreting St Andrew's

Throughout the year we will have special signage and information telling the story of St Andrew's, interpreting our magnificent building and shining a light on the community who worship there. There will be a special Prayer Pilgrimage booklet that can be used to walk around the church. As well as information on our history, stained glass and Josephine Butler, the 19th century social reformer who was baptised and married at St Andrew's and whose parents are buried in the churchyard. The former Dean of Durham, the Very Revd Michael Sadgrove, has written a lecture on our founder, St Wilfrid, copies of which are available in church.

The St Andrew's 1350 Prayer

God of the ages,
we praise you for your faithfulness to us over 1350 years here in Corbridge.
As we rejoice in our foundation by St Wilfrid,
and are inspired by your holy apostle St Andrew,
make us as a city set on a hill,
whose light cannot be hidden,
the light of your glory
in the face of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT

MEMBERSHIP 2024-2025

Members of the PCC are either ex officio, elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with Church Representation Rules, or co-opted by the PCC. During the year the following served as members of the PCC:

Ex officio:

Vicar: Canon David J Kennedy

Assistant Curate: The Rev'd Linda E Hunter

Churchwardens Peter Cook David McEwan

John Clark Karen Harkness Jen Lansberry

Alistair Lishman Max Philbrick Edward Pybus

Nahidah Remy John Wilson

Elected as Church Warden

Peter Cook

Elected at APCM, as representatives on the Deanery Synod

Janet Kennedy and Alice Stephenson

Co-opted

Cliff Wright - Treasurer

Jo Eldridge Minute Secretary

STANDING COMMITTEE

It is a requirement by law that a Standing Committee is appointed. It sets the agenda for the PCC meeting and deals with business in between meetings.

Members: Vicar, Assistant Curate, Churchwardens, Treasurer.

WELCOMES AND FAREWELLS

3 new members were welcomed to the PCC. Jen Lansberry, Alistair Lishman, Karen Harkness and Edward Pybus (standing again to represent Halton),. We thank them all for joining us and for all that they have brought to the PCC.

Jean Wilks retired as churchwarden. We thank her for all that she brought to the role. We welcomed Peter Cook as the new churchwarden.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

7 meetings of the PCC and 7 of the Standing Committee were held during the last year, following the APCM on 5th May 2024. PCC has been busy throughout the year with a range of topics discussed. More detail may be found elsewhere in this report, and in the Minute File available on request or on the website.

TOPICS COVERED

Regular business: Maintenance, Finance, and Safeguarding,

Reports from sub committees of PCC: Eco group, Take 5, Musical events, 1350

Report from Halton and the Deanery Synod

All of the above have reported elsewhere in this report.

We have also discussed:

- Mission statement: part of each PCC meeting is used to review a specific section of our mission statement. This year we discussed our core values in preparation for the new signage.
- Worship and Liturgy, in particular Advent and Christmas, and Holy Week and Easter booklets
- Ongoing support for parishes in Slaley, Healey and Whittonstall
- Appointment of Parish Administrator.
- Corbridge Community Partnership and Community Hub: joint working and development.
- Plans for St Andrew's 1350th anniversary celebrations: a sub-committee continues to plan a range of exciting events and projects.
- The creation of a Memorial Garden, followed by the formal closure of the graveyard at St. James, Newton.
- Pastoral Visiting.
- Capital projects, especially refurbishment of the Cottage, and a proposed enhancement of the Lady Chapel.
- New on-line church diary

ELECTORAL ROLL

Maureen Davison

The year began with 174 names on the Electoral Roll. During the year two names were added and six names have been removed. The total stands at 170.

This coming year there will be a completely new Electoral Roll. Everyone who wishes to be on the Roll will have to complete and sign a new form.

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT & FABRIC, GOODS

AND ORNAMENTS OF THE CHURCH

David McEwan and Peter Cook

Both Churchwardens are members of the PCC, Standing Committee and Maintenance Committee, so we contribute to all decision-making about the maintenance and upkeep of our churches. Maintaining the Church buildings is the most onerous of our roles and involving principally major projects and routine maintenance, some of which can be undertaken ourselves.

The fabric of both our churches is in serviceable condition, and all goods and ornaments are as required for worship and events to take place in St. Andrew's and St. Oswald's.

The Maintenance Committee. The committee meets regularly and reports to PCC. Members are Jon Williams, Jane Darbyshire-Walker, Peter Cook, Canon David Kennedy, Rev'd Linda Hunter, and both churchwardens. Jane takes the minutes of the meeting and Jon is the committee's designated Eco-Champion, ensuring that environmental concerns are taken on board in all discussion and decision-making.

Quinquennial Inspections and recommendations. Inspections of both churches, and of the cottage, are all up to date and the maintenance committee are busy working through and prioritising the recommendations given

Maintenance and works undertaken

- **Statutory Requirements.** During the year we have had inspections of the fire extinguishers, boilers, alarm system, and ladders. Electrical PAT testing was done in November 2024.
- **Clock.** The clock's annual inspection was done in October 2024. We are grateful to Mike Collins who checks, monitors and adjusts the clock when required. Fortunately, it no longer needs winding three times a week, thanks to the automated winding installed in 2021.
- **Roof.** Maintaining a watertight roof, as with all historic buildings, is an ongoing process. There have been some leaks in the north transept and the vicar's vestry; repairs are in hand. A survey of the church roof has been undertaken and we are now looking at some repairs to both the North and South side of the church roof.
- **Vestry roof.** We have a large project underway to replace the vestry roof. This has been an ongoing problem for many years and a solution has now been found. This work will take place Autumn or Spring of next year.
- **Church lighting.** The requirements to change to LED lighting is proving difficult as our dimming system is old and is not able to deal with LED bulbs satisfactorily. More work will be required on the system in the future,

- **Cottage.** During 2024, a significant amount of our time was directed towards the reconfiguration of the cottage kitchen. The project ran from May to September and involved among other things addressing the serious damp problem which had historically plagued the kitchen. The net result we think is a much improved and more functional space which has held up well to the periodic challenges of Church catering.
- **Churchyard and garden.** We have a good working relationship with the Parish Council, which has responsibility for the churchyard, including grass cutting and safety of footpaths and trees. In April 2025, a volunteer working party was organised to do our regular spring tidy-up. Thank you to all who came on the day and who work in the churchyard at other times throughout the year.
- **Tuning.** The organ is tuned 3 times a year. The church piano is tuned at least twice a year, often arranged and funded by musicians hiring the church for performances. The cottage piano is tuned once a year.
- **Architects** The appointment of Neil Turner of Howard Litchfield as architectural advisor to the PCC has also been a significant step forward. We have consulted Mr Turner on two significant projects which are underway, specifically, addressing the damp issue in the ground floor cottage meeting room and the repair of the vestry roof. The vestry roof repair is a complicated process which will require Diocesan consent during 2025.
- **1350th anniversary project.** Mr Turner is also providing professional advice to the PCC as we further develop and scope out the feasibility of the Lady Chapel project. Work is progressing on this proposed project to enhance St Andrew's Lady Chapel, as part of our 1350th anniversary celebrations.
- **Newton churchyard.** A faculty has been granted to convert a section of the churchyard into a memorial garden for interment of ashes. We are now in the process of closing the churchyard (which now has no vacant burial plots) meaning that its maintenance will become the responsibility of the local authority.
- **Utilities: contract renewals.** The cottage gas contract was renewed in May 2024 and St Andrew's in March 2025 (for 2 years)
- **Health & Safety.** Review of our fire safety risk assessments is ongoing. Event risk assessments are carried out for all new events!
- **Security Review.** We regularly monitor our security arrangements. A new cottage door meant that the number of keys for the cottage was greatly reduced on the advice of the insurance company. If you have any church key and are no longer in the role for which it was issued, please return it to the Parish Administrator.

There are many other routine tasks which we attend to facilitate the smooth running of the church and to assist the ministry team in their work. These include liaising with local tradesmen involved in electrical work, joinery, painting, boiler maintenance, gutters and drains, roof repairs and more.

We would like to mention Sue Graves for all her efforts to co-ordinate the team of welcomers for the Sunday 10.00am service and for the installation of the many banners that feature on the frame outside the Church throughout the year. There are also many others involved in a variety of rotas that operate through the year to whom we also wish to express our thanks for their invaluable support. We are always looking for more volunteers to take on a range of tasks or responsibilities; if you could offer some help, please speak to the churchwardens.

Finally on behalf of the congregation, we wish to express our gratitude to the ministry team, for their considerable pastoral activity in the Church and in the village and for their many unheralded acts of kindness and care towards those in need.



Comments written in the Visitors Book at Halton, more than 60 this year, tell the story. Visitors are attracted from far and wide, from all over the country and indeed the world. Finding the church open, they feel welcomed and warm to their surroundings. Looking both inside and outside the church building, they give expression to the beauty of the place and its peacefulness. A place at once of inspiration and consolation. A place of spirituality.

Over this past year there has continued to be a celebration of Holy Communion on the first Sunday of each month and on Christmas Day (and it would be Easter Day too but Easter has not fallen during this calendar year). Canon David Kennedy, the Rev'd Linda Hunter, the Rev'd Phil Smith and Canon Michael Thompson and, until he moved to Ashington, the Rev'd Sam Lohead have all conducted services and preached. Regular attendance is 12-15 and there were 53 at Christmas including 10 children. The St Andrew's choir sang Choral Evensong in June to coincide with the garden opening at Halton Castle and Evening Prayer was said in July. And there were two weddings.

In April, a significant programme of small works was completed at Halton in response to the issues raised in the most recent Quinquennial Report

Halton is supported by a dedicated congregation. All contribute to its continuity. In particular, we are truly grateful to the clergy who give their valuable time to minister to us; the team who provide the flowers produce magnificent displays not just for services but all the time, the church being permanently open; the Blckett family generously carry out essential work in the general maintenance of the church building and the graveyard; and behind the scenes the church wardens ensure our proper governance. Most sincerely we thank all of them and all other contributors.



SAFEGUARDING

www.churchofengland.org/more/safeguarding for further information



Parish Safeguarding Officer: Mandy Norton

Tel: 07831 136505

Safer Recruitment Officer: Richard Adams

Tel: 01434 634869

Asst PSO (Admin): Linda E Hunter

Tel: 01434 633742

'The Church of England is committed to the safeguarding, care and nurture of everyone within the church community so that all can flourish in faith and know the love of God.' Here in St. Andrew's and Halton we need to remember that we are all responsible for keeping each other safe. Mandy is always available to listen if you have any safeguarding concerns. She can also point you in right direction if you need any information or further support. Richard looks after the recruitment paperwork in particular the Volunteer forms and on-line DBS checks, new and renewals.

Over the last year we have continued using the **National Church Dashboard** and the **Safeguarding Hub** in order to keep up to date with all that we need to do to ensure that our churches are safe places.

Dashboard: We have consistently been at level 3 (highest level!) Safer recruitment is really important as we ensure that we recruit to roles safely and those who work with children or vulnerable adults have all the appropriate checks. All those involved in roles which require Safeguarding training have participated in the appropriate course for their role - Basic Awareness, Foundation or Leadership. In addition, some people have received training in Domestic Violence Awareness and Safer Recruiting. Basic Awareness training is completed on line and anyone who wants to know more about Safeguarding can go on the Church of England website and register to complete this training.

Safeguarding Hub: We are able to keep track of all the training required for specific roles and DBS renewal date. In addition, we are reminded when renewals are required.

Safeguarding is on the agenda of every PCC meeting and all PCC members are kept up to date with current information. All policies and procedures are revised, renewed and approved annually at the November PCC meeting. Copies of our booklet are available at the back of church, please do take a copy.

Remember if you have any concerns please speak to Mandy or one of the clergy, or Jill Thirlaway -

Email: j.thirlaway@newcastle.anglican.org Mobile: 07738415238

CELEBRATING 1350 YEARS OF FAITH, HERITAGE AND COMMUNITY

Rev'd Linda Hunter

Although David has acknowledged the 1350 anniversary in his report, it felt only right to give this milestone the dedicated attention it deserves in our Annual Report.

The year began with great enthusiasm as we launched our commemorative events during the Opening Weekend. David's inspiring talk on St. Wilfrid provided historical insight into our spiritual heritage. Afternoon tea was enjoyed by all, with a delightful cake made by Elaine Bolam and a celebratory glass of bubbly marking the occasion. The day closed with a reflective and beautifully observed Evening Prayer, evoking the monastic tradition of Wilfrid's time. On the Sunday, we were honoured to welcome Bishop Helen-Ann, who led a special Service of Thanksgiving. This was followed by a 'lunch in a box,' allowing the congregation to share fellowship over a meal.

As we mark 1350 years of Christian worship in Corbridge, heritage has become a central theme of our year. We have already hosted three of six planned heritage talks, which have been both informative and well-attended:

- David Waugh, local historian
- Frances McIntosh, English Heritage Curator for Hadrian's Wall and the North East
- Dr. David Petts, Associate Professor of Archaeology, Durham University

These talks have enriched our understanding of the region's religious and cultural legacy.

Our monthly themed displays continue to draw in a wide audience, from local residents to tourists exploring the area. Each display offers a fresh perspective on an aspect of our shared history:

- **November** Remembrance
- **January** Shops of Corbridge
- **February** Choir and Organ
- **April** Vicars of Corbridge
- **May** Josephine Butler

Our July display will feature weddings so if you were married in St. Andrew's and have a photograph we would love to borrow it. These exhibitions have not only educated but also inspired conversations and personal reflections among our visitors. Thank you to Simon Hunter and Steve Betts, from Corbridge Heritage Centre, who have put these displays together.

Our 2024 Tree Festival was truly the best ever. In celebration of the 1350th anniversary, we featured 135 beautifully decorated trees, each one a reflection of the creativity and commitment of those who took part. Everyone went the extra mile, making it an unforgettable visual experience.

Adding to the atmosphere, singers sang 135 different carols throughout the festival — an extraordinary musical achievement that brought joy and a festive spirit to all who attended.

Music has played a central role in our celebrations this year. We've hosted a wide **range of concerts** in church, our Spring Music organ recitals have also continued to inspire us.

The building is a living place of Christian worship and service today. The interpretation boards and the Spiritual prayer guide have been a real success – if you haven't looked at them, please do take the time to do so.

To mark this very special year, we are delighted to offer limited-edition 1350 merchandise. This includes a beautiful mug and a Christmas tree bauble, both featuring a unique design created especially for us by local artist Alex Clark. These items can be purchased during the forthcoming Flower Festival, or ordered in advance and collected from the church office. We are incredibly grateful to Alex for generously contributing her artwork to help us commemorate this historic milestone.

The next few months promise to be just as busy, with a variety of exhibitions, concerts, activities and a magnificent Flower Festival planned that continue to celebrate our heritage and engage with our community.



MISSION AND MINISTRY

MESSY CHURCH

Louise Stubbs

Messy Church is now in its fifteenth year and once again we are celebrating this annual achievement. The Messy Church banner remains in a prominent position in the Church grounds and is a timely reminder for our regular, and any visiting families. It is very well publicised. Flyers are distributed in school, displayed on the Church noticeboard, the website and the Church Facebook page. The flyers are designed and produced by Max Philbrick. Our team would welcome anyone who may be interested, to come along and join in with the endless fun we aim to provide, as well as the opportunity to share the Christian Gospel.

Our team have regular planning /review meetings which are essential, as we are constantly considering ways to improve the Messy Church format. The ministry team continue to be fully involved in Messy Church. Revd. Linda Hunter leads the team and we are grateful for her support and encouragement.

The Messy Church format has seen some changes. From June 2024 the timing of Messy Church changed from 3-4 pm to 4-5pm. Currently, this has not made a significant difference to attendance which continues to vary, with, at times, numbers being very low. A new name was considered but it was decided to retain 'Messy Church'.

The afternoon commences with a video or short talk which is used to introduce the story/theme for the day. Max Philbrick is relied upon to deliver the technology using the laptop and screen. A member of the team tells the story. Alternatively a game is played (related to the theme) where we can encourage everyone to participate. Several table top activities, planned and resourced by the team are also provided. The team have a wealth of resources to use, which are stored in the Church cottage. Families have freedom of choice for the activities and any items made go home!. The afternoon concludes with a recap of the story, songs and prayers. We then come together for a much-anticipated tea! We are grateful to Janet Morrison for her continued enthusiasm and baking skills. The teas are thoroughly enjoyed by everyone (especially the sausage rolls!).

The themes we have addressed in this period have included;

Good Friday-Easter Journey, The Lost Son who came back home, Pentecost, From Saul to Paul, Daniel and the lions, The Olympics, Creation-God makes things, Moses, David the shepherd boy, The Wise Men, Feeding of the 5,000, Storm on the lake.

All the team would like to thank Charlotte Paton who joined us in 2023. Charlotte was an enthusiastic and valued member of our team. We send our best wishes for her forthcoming marriage and move to Scotland.

As always our thoughts and prayers remain with all our Messy Church Families, the team and everyone who contributes in any way.

The Take 5 Committee is chaired by Malcolm Warin and the members are: Monica Philbrick, Jennifer Wright, Fiona Warin, David Kennedy, Richard Adams and Max Philbrick.

We meet regularly to discuss updates and issues surrounding the individuals and organisations we support, and related concerns re how best to share the money allocated.

We have continued to support A Rocha, GAP, The Byker Project (MINE), The Pearts working in Bolivia with CMS and Getachew and Getashign Yohannes who work with Ethiopia Wycliffe Bible Translators.

During the year we have discussed a rebranding of Take 5 and are due to relaunch as ConneXions in the Autumn. We have identified our aims and objectives. Next year we will seek to push forward in communicating our work more effectively to the St Andrew's congregation.

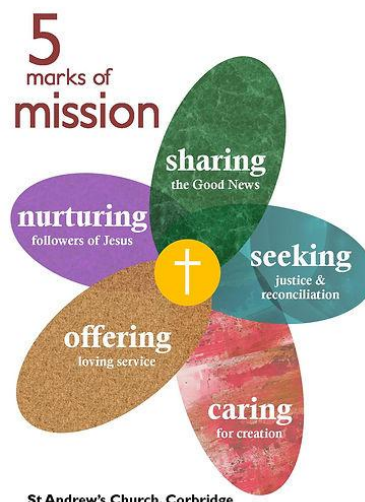
Distribution of funds for 2024

These are Take 5's proposals for giving for 2024:

Arocha	£580
Getachew and Pearts	£2,360 each
GAP	£1,360
MINE	£1,040

Slight increase for GAP to help with heating bills, and for funding people involved in mission i.e. Getachew & Pearts.

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St Andrew's Church, Corbridge

At the heart of our life together as the body of Christ is the call to love one another, bear each other's burdens, and extend the compassion of Jesus to those in need. Supporting one another—both within the church family and in the wider community—is not simply something we do; it is a reflection of our identity as followers of Christ.

Our Pastoral Lead Team—Jennifer Wright, Mandy Norton, Mike Bewick, and myself—meets to prayerfully discern how we can further develop and extend the care we offer. We are committed to ensuring that support is readily available for anyone who asks.

One new initiative currently being developed is a six-week bereavement support course, led by Mandy, a trained counsellor. This course is designed to offer compassionate care and space for healing, no matter where someone finds themselves on the journey of grief. Mike will be assisting Mandy in this ministry. If you—or someone you know—might benefit from this support, please do not hesitate to contact Mandy at 07831 136505.

In addition, we are exploring opportunities for Dementia Awareness Training, seeking to equip us to respond more effectively to those living with dementia and their families.

Pastoral Visitors Ministry

We have a dedicated team of pastoral visitors who have been safely recruited and trained to offer regular or occasional visits. This ministry is a tangible expression of Christ's love, bringing encouragement, prayer, and presence to those who may feel isolated or in need of connection. If you or someone you know would appreciate a visit, please contact Linda to arrange this. Likewise, if you feel a call to be part of this ministry and become a pastoral visitor, we would love to hear from you.

RESIDENTIAL HOMES

We have 3 teams of people who lead monthly worship in the Residential Homes.

Abbeyfield House: Diane Wylie and Maurice Holmes. Maurice Holmes and I visit Abbeyfield on the first Wednesday of the month to give a short Service of the Word. We begin and end with a hymn. These are ones which match the theme and Bible reading and are chosen as known to the residents. Maurice gives a short talk based on the reading. We have a conversation time afterwards which the residents enjoy and contribute. This is special and valuable to them.

Burn Brae Lodge: Jennifer Wright and Monica Philbrick. A small team continue to hold a simple service at Burn Brae Lodge care home every month. We take inspiration from Caroline George's book called "Living Liturgies" and continue to use an interactive format which involves the residents as much as possible. At Christmas several members from St Andrew's came with us to help retell

the Christmas story and also to boost the singing. In addition to the monthly service at Easter we offered Holy Communion to those residents who wanted it.

Charlotte Straker House: Bob and Jo Eldridge. We attend Charlotte Straker Care Home once a month on the first Monday in the month. We begin with some Christian music and a welcome as the people arrive. Service sheets and hymn sheets are handed out, we begin with a well-known hymn followed by a scripture reading and a short talk covering a topical theme for that day. We try to encourage participation and also giving opportunity for sharing of past memories and experiences. Prayers are included within the service sheet followed by a final hymn. Jo follows on from the service with a time of communion for those who choose to stay. We find we generally have around 9 people attending regularly. Jo will also take communion to those who prefer to stay in their rooms or are unable to physically come to the service.

Mike Bewick and Alice Stephenson step in to help when needed.

HOME COMMUNION

A team of people: Jennifer Wright, Liz Buckley, Mike Bewick, Jo Eldridge, and Diane Wylie are authorised to take Communion to people in their own homes, this is a great support to David and Linda who are also part of this team. We have currently 6 people on our list receiving home communion but we could easily visit more housebound people if they would like to receive communion in their own home.



TEA AND CHAT

Mike Bewick

Tea and Chat has been running at The Community Hub for just over 2 years. The numbers have continued grow with regularly at least 35 people coming along at any one time, (we have on occasions had 42 people) to enjoy fellowship with both friends old and new. This happens twice a month on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday. We also have visitors from the various care homes, with Burn Brae Lodge expressing interest to bring people down. This initiative started by Linda is a great success in bringing people together people, those of different faiths and none. A huge Thank You to

Ann Duncan who cooks all the cakes, organises the other volunteers in the kitchen and serving customers. Thanks to those who help Alice, Ellie, Janice, Mike, Daphne, Margaret, Dorothy and those who help on an ad hoc basis. Linda, Alice and Mike offer lifts to those less able to come on their own. Looking forward to serving more people in 2025. Do come along and visit us in the Community Hub.

ECO CHURCH

Richard Adams

Although the temperature of the planet continues to increase towards an unsustainable level the environmental actions at St. Andrew's reduced in temperature compared with 2024. However, opportunities exist and these will be the focus of efforts in the coming year by the Eco church group*. We are conscious that God formed the earth in beauty and breathed life into all that is and it is our responsibility to cherish this, live sustainably, act with compassion and justice and honour the earth as the common home of humanity.

C of E Net Zero by 2030: This target requires us to minimise our use of fossil fuels (in our case mainly gas) and switch to a supplier of electricity from renewable sources. We will need to offset most of the carbon produced by our energy use through an effective carbon sequestration project and a report has been prepared to this effect.

Eco Church Award: We have achieved the bronze award and are close to achieving silver but need to make further progress, particularly with land and buildings. Nearly 3,000 Church of England congregations participate in this programme creating a stimulating and imaginative range of initiative which we can benefit from.

Wildlife Survey: The Northumberland Wildlife Trust produced for us a detailed, 21page survey of the churchyard. Apart from confirming our place as the dead centre of the village it outlined a number of recommendations for action.

***Congregational engagement:** The Eco Church group would like to welcome new members so if you have an interest in environmental issues or would like to learn more please get in touch with me at razdax@outlook.com – I can also send you a copy of the churchyard survey.



Your church caring for God's Earth

BOOK CLUB

Jennifer Wright

This small group meet most weeks. We have just completed reading “Lighting the Beacons” by The Rt Revd Dr Jill Duff, Bishop of Lancaster. We also use a book by Angela Ashwin called “A Book of a Thousand Prayers.” This book has some beautiful written prayers for all occasions. We also continued to study some of the of the Old Testament prophets.

HOME GROUP

Anne King-Lewis, Max Philbrick

The Home group meets every Thursday at the home of Max and Monica. We normally study a Bible passage or Biblical theme with someone leading each week. There is open and free discussion. All are welcome but it would be helpful if Max and Monica knew you were coming so they could arrange an appropriate number of seats. For any queries, please get in touch with Max, Paul or Anne.

PRAYER GROUP

Jennifer Wright

We meet every week in church, we pray for current issues relevant to our lives here in Corbridge as well as those relating to the country and the rest of the world. We pray for the ministry team and all of the groups working within our church.

Every week we hold before God in prayer those people who have left prayer requests on the prayer board. On one occasion recently it was lovely to hear appreciation for our prayers from someone who had been given the “all clear” following treatment for cancer.

The church prayer diary is available on the prayer table.



This last year seems to have passed more quickly than ever – probably because we are always planning at least four weeks ahead. In September we launched the 1350 Celebrations with a rousing rendition of Parry: I Was Glad, and Bullock: Give us the Wings of Faith, with an augmented choir and Alastair Lord on trumpet. The service began with a setting of the Kyrie Eleison by Hildegard Bingham, a plainsong chant recalling the Foundation of St Andrew's as a monastic church.

This was followed by the Remembrance Service featuring two choral works: For the Fallen by Mark Blatchly, and In Paradisum by the Latvian composer Rihards Dubra. And then we were immersed in music for Advent and Christmas featuring the two highpoints for the choir: the Advent Procession and the traditional Carol Service. The latter service featured our upper voices singing The Holy Boy by John Ireland, of particularly poignancy as this was a favourite piece by our former organist John Ross.

The choir practices leading up to Easter are demanding and intensive. By the end of the Easter Day service the choir will have sung 14 individual pieces of music, all of which need to be learnt and rehearsed. We particularly enjoyed the opportunity to sing a Lenten Choral Evensong on Palm Sunday Evening, including a Fauxbourdon Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis by Phillip Moore, a setting of versicles and responses by Bernard Rose, and the anthem Save us O Lord by Edward Bairstow. Each of these pieces is much more challenging than what you might expect to hear from a village Parish Church Choir, and our St Andrew's choir sung superbly, augmented by a few guest singers, including a welcome return visit by ex-member Roger Southern. With the change in the provision of services at St Andrew's (and the shortage of male singers) we do not often get an opportunity to sing Evensong – in fact the only other time this last year was in the intimate setting of Halton Church back in June, at the end of their open day.

Throughout the year the choir has been in good voice enjoying a rich and varied repertoire of music spanning the 16th century to contemporary composers. Many of you may not be aware of how much care and thought goes into the selection of the organ and choral music sung and played every Sunday and in the additional services. For example: during Lent (and Advent) our organist John Roper plays nothing but the music of the great J S Bach and, as part of his Lenten discipline, always learns something new (to him, at least) to play publicly for the first time. A number of pieces have been played reflecting the Lent to Palm Sunday season, and (particularly for Bach aficionados) the list of pieces includes:

Erbarm dich mein, oh Herre Gott BWV 721

Aus tiefer Not schrei ich zu die BWV 687

Fantasia and Imitation BWV 563

Ich ruf zu dir BWV 639

Fugue in C minor BWV 575

Pastorale in F major, first 2 movements BWV 590

Liebster Jesu wir sind hier BWV 731

Magnificat (fugato) BWV 733

Fantasia super Valet will ich dir geben BWV 735

Herzlich tut mich verlangen BWV 727

O Mensch, Bewien Dien' Sunde gross BWV 622

John adds, "the main 'project' this Lent has been to bring to performance Bach 'Dorian' Toccata in D minor BWV 538, but we ran out of services. This piece will now be played on Low Sunday."

St Andrews enjoys the luxury of two organists, John Roper and Marc Bryant. Week after week they patiently support the choir though rehearsals, as well as delighting congregations with their musicianship, both during services and summer organ recitals.

Each choir member deserves our thanks for their hard work and dedication. Several individuals perform additional duties: Nicki Swart provides secretarial support, Liz Collins looks after the robes, and Jen Lansberry and Jayne Cook keep the music library in order. I repeat what I said in last year's report: the choir is continually encouraged by David Kennedy who despite the claims on his time joins us whenever he can. We greatly appreciate his enthusiasm and support and not least, his bass voice. To all: my personal gratitude.



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Rev'd Linda E. Hunter

Treasurer: Sheila Neilson

Social Secretary: Claire Hay

Minute Secretary: Rosemary Rayfield **Programme Secretaries:** Liz Buckley & Yvonne Piper

Committee Members: Janet Kennedy, Elsie Fletcher (until April 2025) Janice McLean, Daphne Anderson (until April 2024)

We have been meeting in the Community Hub now for over a year and generally speaking apart from the odd hiccup it has been a good space to meet. This last year has been good year for WF, we have 48 members. However, sadly Daphne Anderson died suddenly this year, we do miss her ideas and wisdom at the committee meetings as much as her great knowledge of Corbridge and the many families she knew. Elsie Fletcher a member of our committee too, who had a very good sense of humour and a marvellous singing voice died in April this year. Evelyn Charlton a past member died this year too.

After our AGM last year, we began our programme in **February with Margaret Bozac** who gave a fascinating talk about the The Lit & Phil in Newcastle which was founded in 1793 and has been in the centre of Newcastle upon Tyne since 1825. It houses a library of both historic as well as contemporary books and music. The building is used for a wide range of public such as talks, concerts, readings, discussions and book launches.

In March our **Lent Reflection** took the form of a Journey through Holy Week with readings, hymns and prayers. Members of the group took part reading and placing objects on the table.

We had a change of programme when we welcomed **Sharon Brown from the Northumberland Domestic Abuse Service**

In May **Jane Dixon, from the Soroptimists**, came to talk about "Life in May" and was an excellent speaker, full of life, humour and able to relate her thoughts to biblical quotations.

This year for our **summer event in June we decided to have a Strawberry tea with entertainment** in the hub. We had a lovely afternoon, chatting, enjoying the scones, strawberries and bubbly and listening to the music of Hextra. It was quite hard work for the committee and we appreciated the work they all put into making it a very successful afternoon.

We began again in **September** after our Summer break, with a wonderful talk and display of **photography by Phil Benson**. He had lots of really nice coasters, and pictures for sale

We had a fascinating afternoon in **October when Dr Christopher Cunningham** shared with us his experiences of working in remote healthcare settings, it was really humbling to see the length people would go to, to receive vaccinations and healthcare treatment. Something we all take for granted.

November was the ideal time to have **members of Hexham Flower Club** to share with us some ideas for Christmas table decorations and wreaths. Even better they were raffled off for members to win.

We rounded the year off with our **Advent reflection**, the theme this year was **Waiting** this was an opportunity for us to have some quiet reflective time amidst that Christmas hustle and bustle. Of course, we finished off the afternoon with more mince pies and tea.

If you would like to try out Women's Fellowship, do come along you would be most welcome. We usually meet on the last Monday of the month in the Community Hub at 2.00pm.



OUTREACH

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION

Simon Hunter

www.corbridgechurch.org.uk

Since St Andrew's Church website was redesigned so that it could be used with ease on Smart phones, Mobile devices, and Desktop computers, the number of pages viewed on the website has increased to 37,548 (1st April 2024 – 1st April 2025) with about 88% of those views being returning visitors. This shows how St Andrew's Website is a **very effective** way to get information across to the congregation and the wider community of Corbridge and beyond. The **THIS WEEK** page is the most popular because of its weekly information. The graph below shows the number of direct visitors to the **THIS WEEK** page each week. (Jan 2025 – March 2025)



If you haven't already bookmarked the **THIS WEEK** page – please do so because all the weekly information is in one place on this page: www.corbridgechurch.org.uk/this-week

The website pages which are of interest to the wider community of Corbridge and beyond, as well as the congregation, receive the largest number of unique visitors. These are the **Christmas Tree Festival** page, **Events** page, **Musical Events** page, **1350** pages.

A new set of web pages were added this year for 1350th Anniversary all with 1350 logos.



We would welcome contributions for the Events section which can be emailed to corbridgechurchwebsite@btinternet.com (for events section send information at least 2 weeks before the event)

Weekly Email: Each week we have over 250 households receiving the St Andrew's church weekly email. This keeps readers up to date with information for the forthcoming week and it also provides a link to the **THIS WEEK** page on the Church website which gives access to the bulletin, reflection, orders of services and other relevant information. This information can also be accessed via the Church website directly.

Social Media

- Facebook: We have three Facebook pages: Corbridge Church, Corbridge Church Families and St Andrew's Church Christmas Tree Festival.
- X (twitter) account: Corbridge Church tweets@CorbridgeChurc1

(Paper copies of Bulletin and Booklets are available in church to members of the congregation who don't have access to the internet)

DEANERY SYNOD

Alice Stephenson

The Deanery Synod have only met twice since our last AGM.

The first at Prudhoe in July the guest speaker was John Canessa who gave a very informative talk about the Lantern Initiative which aims are to welcome, inspiring worship and empowering worth. This for people who are socially isolated, for a variety of reasons included the homeless, recovering addicts and those mentally challenged. There are several groups which can radically change people's lives. People find an open and understandably space where they are heard and understood which can aid the beginning or continuing of their journey to hear and see God while their physical and individual needs can also be addressed.

During the finance talk we were told that our parish share was on target to be achieved. Next year's target will a real challenge to achieve.

We met at Stocksfield in November. Having discussed the resignation of the Archbishop of Canterbury where David Kennedy led us in prayer, we moved on to Diana Johnson's report on 'Seeking, Sharing, and Sending'. The 'Year of Seeking' invites us to pray and discern together towards a deeper understanding of God.

The Very Revd. Lee Batson, Dean of the Cathedral, who previously was a Parish priest, talked about the role of the Cathedral and how it can link up with the Parishes and their need to be able to identify with the Cathedral. The Cathedral has around 200,000 visitors a year.

The number of Stipendiary clergy in the diocese has been cut to 80, this will not affect our Deanery as we are already at our required 5.3. This could change if the Diocese does not receive as much of the Parish share it has asked for. As a Deanery we were on target to reach our contri

EVENTS & FUNDRAISING

MUSICAL EVENTS

Jean Wilks and Revd Linda E. Hunter

A small team comprises ourselves, Marc Bryant, Mary Oswell, Coleen Petrie, Nicki Swart, and Jenny Watson Sadly, Gail Williams one of our members died this year we do miss her input and wisdom to our meetings. We have welcomed Jayne Cook onto the team. The team meet regularly to plan the musical events for St Andrew's, this year has been a particularly good year for concerts. St Andrew's is a wonderful venue so musicians love performing here, and we love hosting and working with them. Some hire the building and manage the concert themselves, and some work jointly with us so that some or all of the profits come to St Andrews. We especially enjoy hosting our seasons of Friday lunchtime music, when we have had a wide range of performers.

These were the concerts we hosted in **April 2024 – April 2025**

18 th April	Eden Stell Guitar Concert
27 th April	Ryton Choral Society
8 th June	Madness and Melancholy organised by John Green in conjunction with St Andrew's
28 th June	Lunchtime concert: Corbridge First School Choir
29 th June	John Ross Memorial Concert
6 th July	Ryton Choral Society
25 th to 28 th July	Chamber Music Festival
August/Sept	Friday lunchtime music, incl. Warren Smith (organist), Marygate Singers, Michael (organ)& Jean (alto) Grave, Cristo Harijan (pianist) Deborah Thorne (cellist) & John Green (harpsichord) Nicki Billington (pianist,) Sarah Roberts (violinist) Sarah Robinson (pianist) and Deborah Thorne (cellist) the St Andrew's organists
5 th October	Noxwode organised by John Green in conjunction with St Andrew's
19 th October	Choral concert for Tynedale Hospice at Home
2 nd November	Antiphon
9 th November	Orpheus

2025

12 th March	Chamber Music Festival Concert
23 rd March	St John Passion
29 th March	Ryton Choral Society
5 th April	Antiphon

OTHER EVENTS

12th June Richard Coles – Forum Books

20th – 21st June Textile and Art Exhibition in conjunction with the Sewing Bee

28th Nov to 3rd Dec Christmas Tree Festival with 135 trees and 135 carols sung

Feb 13th Pancakes and Quiz evening, organised by Pauline and Susan Bennett.

1st March Mad March Market

May 5th Village Bake-off

A huge thank you to the team and of course to all who support all our events in St. Andrew's.

FUNDRAISING:

Thanks to Suzette and Warwick Milne for arranging the Grand Draw which brought in over £1,000.

If you would like to be involved in helping with any of our events, or have some suggestions of others that we may have, do let us know.

The 'lifters and shifters' for the Christmas Tree Festival



Progress

I am pleased to report that the Flower Arranging Team has increased further this year and therefore we have started a rota such that our efforts can be spread more evenly across the enlarged team.

The Coming Year

We have been busy organizing the exhibits for the 1350 Flower Festival which will be in June 2025.

Many of our Flower Team are taking part in the festival along with members of various flower clubs, the Women's Institute together with other churches, Hexham Abbey and Minsteracres, etc.

We are looking forward to the event with great enthusiasm and we hope that it will be very successful.

Continued Development

We are always keen to welcome new members to our Flower Arranging Team and so we invite anyone interested to contact Ann Prudhoe on mobile 07483 855385 or home 01434 632971.

Finally

We wish to sincerely thank all those people who have donated money for flowers during the year.





At Corbridge Church of England First School, we have the Christian values of respect, forgiveness, truth, thankfulness and kindness guiding us in all we do, helping us to be courageous advocates who make a difference in our local community and the wider world.

‘Let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.’ 1 John 3:18

Through high expectations and encouragement, we empower our children to believe in themselves and be the best they can be!

School Information

Number of children on roll: 140 % SEND pupils: 20% (up from 14.8%)

Age range of pupils: 3-9 years % of disadvantaged pupils: 10.7%

Key Developments (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Education)

The whole school ethos, and promotion of personal development, are enhanced through collective worship, RE, the work of the Buddies, the work of the School Council, the Eco-Council, the Diversity Council and Reading Ambassadors. Picture News is used in whole school worship to discuss current affairs; pupils can access the content at a suitable level. The use of Picture News encourages discussion and debate through links to current affairs. Pupils are encouraged to talk about things happening in the world right now, becoming courageous advocates for change.

Staff look at how the Bible can be linked to Picture News. The worship schedule is on the school website so that parents can use links from Picture News at home and know what has been discussed in school. Children have accessed further, special assemblies including a live Black History Month assembly, a presentation on anxiety delivered by the Be You Team, weekly worship delivered by the Ministry Team from St. Andrew’s and a suite of assemblies on gender stereotyping and respect, delivered by the Headteacher.

Rev. Linda has established a team of worship leaders at school who write and deliver prayers for the whole school and during church services.

Reading Ambassadors and a Diversity Council have been established at both schools.

The PSHE enrichment calendar has been updated for the year across the Federation; it includes, for example, Black History Month, Christianity projects, Anti-Bullying Week, STEM, Remembrance Day and World Mental Health Day. There is a strong focus on the purpose of the days and why the school takes part. Loti Nambombe, a public speaker on race, came to speak to both schools about the racist bullying he has experienced throughout his life and the deportation threats he has faced. He led dynamic sessions with all KS1 and 2 children, really helping them to understand what his lived experience has been.

Every day, every class chooses someone to be a special person. The special person hears positive affirmations from their peers and provides their own self-affirmations; some pupils can initially find this difficult to do, however self-esteem is boosted as a result. The work also supports oracy and language development.

The SENDCo works closely with a number of external partners to promote positive emotional wellbeing and mental health in school; she has put in place a range of strategies to support pupils and parents. An action plan details the ongoing work. The SENDCo is a highly skilled practitioner who has a sharp focus on achieving the best outcomes for all pupils. Last year, the school was awarded the bronze award by Carnegie for its mental health work. A parent newsletter focusing on SEMH (following parent SEMH survey) has been created, as well as a dedicated section on the school website. Parent workshops will run this term focusing on the relational approach to behaviour management and helping parents to support the mental wellbeing of their children at home.

Extra-curricular provision

A wide range of lunchtime and after-school clubs are on offer with strong numbers. Provision is always inclusive and funded places are available, so no-one misses out. Attendance is monitored. A proportional representation audit has been completed for both schools to ascertain the number of Pupil Premium and SEND children accessing clubs and whether this is in line with Pupil Premium and SEND percentages in school. Crystal Club has been particularly popular at CFS with pupil voice showing high levels of enjoyment and a positive impact on mental wellbeing. Following a very successful Autumn Term, choir numbers have grown to 45 – almost 1/3 of the school!

Special Event and Visits

- Playground buddy training has taken place;
- The Skipping Ninja came to CFS to put on a show for the whole school and then run skipping workshops for each class. The 5x World Record holder was such an inspiration to the children! At the end of the day, they were able to buy ropes and have been skipping every day since –

especially the boys!

- 'Mini Medics' sessions for all KS1 and 2 children, where they learnt vital lifesaving skills.
- Children at CFS took part in the annual village show. Entries to the children's categories were encouraged by allowing the children to bring them to school to be taken to the show. Our children won a number of prizes and the choir sang at the event. It was a wonderful day!
- M&M Theatre Productions came to school to perform, 'The Secret Garden' for free after a last-minute cancellation.
- The KS2 tag rugby tournament for the Federation of Broomhaugh and Corbridge CofE First Schools took place at Tynedale Rugby Club. This was a great experience for the children as they were able to play at the home of rugby. The club were a wonderful help and ran the tournament brilliantly.
- Year 2 visited the Corbridge Community Hub as part of their local history topic. They learnt so much about the village.
- The school choir performed at St. Andrew's 1350th anniversary celebrations and met Bishop Helen-Ann – it was a wonderful day and an honour to be asked. They also took part in the St. Andrew's Christmas Tree Festival and a combined Federation Mega Choir sang for parents. Both choirs have been invited back to sing again in July.
- The school attended Christmas theatre performances of 'The Night Before Chrismouse' and 'Jack and the Beanstalk' at Queen's Hall, Hexham.
- KS2 children visited the Sikh Gurdwara in Newcastle to see their place of worship and share a meal in the Langar.
- Joe Morris, MP visited school in February to tour with the school councils and see the fantastic work that is being done.
- KS2 children (and some specially selected KS1 children) took part in a football tournament with Sporting Journeys NE Ltd at QEHS. All of the children were a credit to the school and modelled our Christian values of respect and kindness throughout. Huge congratulations to the CFS team who made the final and were narrowly beaten in an exciting showdown with Broomley First School. One of our Year 4 players summed it up brilliantly by saying, "It was one of the best days of my life. My whole team lifted me up!"

Rainbow Day 2025

On Friday 31st January we held our annual Rainbow Day, where we celebrate equality, diversity and inclusion. Everyone agreed it was such a magical day. Seeing the children come together on the playground really did encapsulate the wonder of a rainbow: we are all individually amazing but together we make something extraordinary!

This year we explored gender stereotypes and mental health and wellbeing. Very simply, a gender stereotype is a generalised view or preconception about attributes or characteristics, or the roles that are or ought to be possessed by, or performed by, women and men. The children across school investigated stereotypes by looking at toys and job roles, and evaluating whether they are for girls, boys or both. Our older children investigated further by looking at books, sports and adverts to see whether these stereotypes were reinforced. All of the children agreed that toys, jobs and hobbies are for everyone, regardless of their gender!

Throughout the day, the children took part in different activities and workshops to help them better understand the theme. The Be You team came to lead assemblies across school and workshops with our KS2 children. There were sessions on wellbeing, mindfulness and the Zones of Regulation, as well as friendship-based activities. The children also played 'feelings bingo' and thought about all of the things that make them happy.

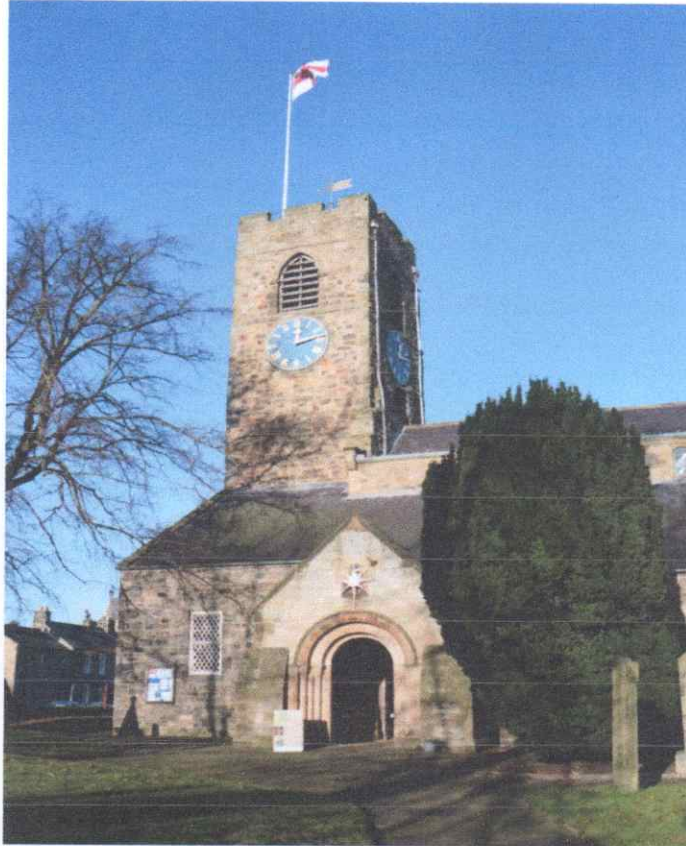
A Rainbow Bake Off was held in each school to raise money for our nominated charities: Corbridge Youth Initiative and Henry Dancer Days.



The Parish of St Andrew's, Corbridge with St Oswald, Halton and St James, Newton Hall

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31st December 2024



1. Independent Examiner's Report
2. Treasurer's Report
3. Summarised Balance Sheet
4. Summarised Statement of Financial Activities
5. Notes to Financial Statements
6. Grants & Donations

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, CORBRIDGE

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, CORBRIDGE

I report on the accounts of the Parish Council for the year ended 31 December 2024 which are attached.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustee and Examiner.

As the members of the Parochial Church Council, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. 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 the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report.

The examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Parochial Church Council and a comparison of the accounts presented with these records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as members concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement.

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (a) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - (i) To keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the act; and
 - (ii) To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act.

have not been met; or

- (b) To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

M. Collins
Mike Collins

Dated: 24/3/25.

Parochial Church Council of Corbridge, with Halton and Newton Hall.

TREASURER'S REPORT

For the year ending 31st December 2024

1. Summary

Last year, the value of our net assets increased by £97, 544. The analysis shown below identifies where the increase came from and compares the results with 2023.

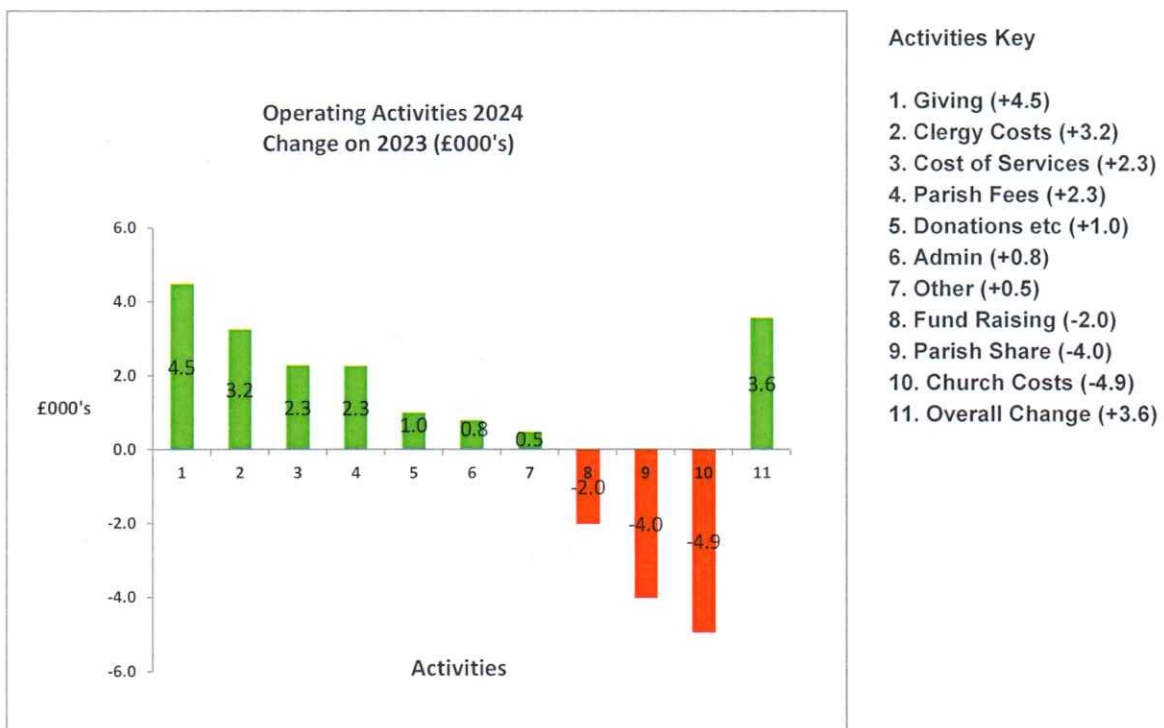
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	2024	2023
Surplus on Operating Activities	15.6	12.0
Capital Projects	-32.8	23.9
Change in value of investments	1.6	0.6
Legacy	113.1	0.0
Net Movement in Funds	97.5	36.5

2. Operating Activities

Operating Activities include the vast majority of our financial transactions and covers all "routine" elements of income and expenditure. It is a guide to the financial wellbeing of the church with a surplus indicating viability and a shortfall showing that we "lived beyond our means".

The chart below shows the areas where the improvement of £3,572 between 2023 and 2024 came from:



Despite the handicaps of increased Parish Share, the full year effects of higher electricity charges arising from new contacts and significant general inflation, we were able to improve our position over 2023 with a very successful giving appeal, economies in Clergy costs and the costs of Services. We also saw a welcome improvement in Parish Fees received.

3. Capital Projects

Project spending last year was made up of:

	£
Lady Chapel	9,480
Quinquennial Inspection	3,792
Halton Churchyard	4,727
Kitchen Project	42,759
Total spending	60,758

Expenditure was offset by donations and grants totalling £28,000.

4. Legacy

A legacy of £113,141 received in 2014 all came from the estate of John Ross. £30,000 of the total is restricted to "Organ Upkeep" whilst the balance (£83,141) is unrestricted.

5. Reserves

With the boost provided by the legacy, our year end reserves totalling more than £353,000, including an unrestricted total of £237,000, are in exceptionally good health.

6. Conclusion

In financial terms, 2024 was an extremely positive year for the church.

Despite some difficult challenges, in the shape of increased Parish Share and the damaging levels of inflation, we were able to increase the surplus on Operating Activities which is effectively "Running the business"

The extremely generous legacy from the estate of John Ross obviously means that we have more discretion in how we invest in projects to benefit the future of the church.

All of this sounds very positive and it certainly is, but it doesn't mean that our financial future is assured. Our Parish Share commitment for 2025 is more than £91,000, an increase of £7,000 on 2024. High levels of inflation are still present and there will be increases from new gas contracts. This combination, together with the inevitable effects of ageing will provide plenty future challenges.


Parocial Church Council of Corbridge with Halton and Newton Hall

SUMMARISED BALANCE SHEET – at 31st December 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
INVESTMENTS			
Investment assets	5		
CBF Fund (CCLA 1S 853.05 shares)		19725	19283
M & G Fund (3033 units)		44658	43523
		<u>64383</u>	<u>62807</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
CBF Fund (CCLA 1D + CCLA 2D)		12129	11518
Cash at bank and in hand	7	270253	176438
Halton General		7651	7141
		<u>290033</u>	<u>195096</u>
<u>ADD ACCRUED INCOME & PREPAYMENTS</u>	6	10622	8186
<u>LESS LIABILITIES FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR</u>	8	11946	10622
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>288709</u>	<u>192660</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>353092</u>	<u>255467</u>
FUNDS			
Unrestricted	10	237241	181378
Restricted		115850	74088
		<u>353092</u>	<u>255467</u>

The attached notes form part of these financial statements.


Approved by the PCC on
and signed on their behalf



Chairman

20/3/25

Treasurer


20/3/25

Parochial Church Council of Corbridge, with Halton and Newton Hall

SUMMARISED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
 – for the year ending 31st December 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
				2024 £	2023 £
INCOME & ENDOWMENTS					
Incoming resources from donors	2a	120157	5	120162	115677
Other voluntary income resources	2b	13980	65306	79286	81524
Income from charitable and ancilliary trading	2c	7615	16708	24323	22560
Other ordinary incoming resources	2d	0	7431	7431	6297
Extraordinary Income	2e	0	0	0	0
Income from investments	2f	3362	514	3876	3478
Total Income & Endowments excl Legacies		145114	89964	235078	229535
EXPENDITURE					
Grants	3a	8485	7431	15916	14549
Activities related to the activities of church	3b	96178	56603	152780	150254
Fund-raising and publicity	3c	237	11269	11506	15636
Church management and administration	3d	11211	0	11211	12083
Repairs & Maintenance	3e	0	0	0	0
Projects	3f	42759	17999	60758	1123
Expenditure in relation to prior years		0	0	0	0
Total Expenditure		158869	93301	252170	193645
Legacies Received	2g	83141	30000	113141	0
Net Income/Expenditure (-)		69386	26663	96049	35890
Transfers Between Funds		-15099	15099	0	0
Other Recognised Gains/Losses (-)					
Gains/Losses (-) on Investments		1576	0	1576	611
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		55863	41762	97625	36500
BALANCES BROUGHT FWD AT 1 JAN 2024		181378	74088	255467	218966
BALANCES CARRIED FWD AT 31 DECEMBER 2023		237241	115850	353092	255467

Parochial Church Council of Corbridge, with Halton and Newton Hall.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2011 together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historic cost convention.

Scope

The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They include the transactions of directly related activities but do not include the transactions of any church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Funds

Restricted funds are maintained to ensure that donations or contributions made by donors for specific purposes are properly applied. Restricted funds are set up and removed at the direction of PCC. Unrestricted funds are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC.

Incoming Resources

Voluntary income and capital resources

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.

Planned giving receivable is recognised only when received.

Income tax recoverable on covenants/gift aid donations is recognised in the year in which it applies.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement and the amount due.

Income from fund raising activities is accounted for gross.

Sales of books, magazines, postcards, etc. from the church bookstall are accounted for gross.

Income will be accrued as appropriate.

Other ordinary income

Rental income from the letting of church premises is recognised when the rental is due.

Income from investments

Dividends and interest are accounted for when receivable. Tax recoverable on such income is recognised in the same accounting year.

Resources expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. All costs have been directly attributed to the expenditure categories used in the statement of financial activities. The church is not registered for VAT, accordingly expenditure is shown gross of unrecoverable VAT.

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

The parish share is accounted for when payable. Any share unpaid at 31 December is provided for in these accounts as an operational (though not a legal) liability and is shown as a creditor in the Balance Sheet.

Fixed assets

Consecrated land and buildings and church furnishings

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993.

No value is placed on movable furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which requires a faculty for disposal since the PCC considers this an inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or benefice buildings and movable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvements, is written off as expenditure in the SOFA and separately disclosed.

Investments

Investments are included at market value at 31 December. The statement of financial activity includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluations and disposals during the year.

Net current assets

Current Assets include cash held on deposit, either with the CBF Church of England Funds, at the bank or in hand.

Amounts owing to, or prepaid by, PCC at 31st December are shown as "Accrued Income & Prepayments".

Amounts which have not been invoiced by service providers but are owed by PCC are shown as "Liabilities Falling Due Within One Year"

2. INCOME & ENDOWMENTS

		<i>Unrestricted Income</i>	<i>Restricted Income</i>	<i>TOTAL FUNDS</i>	
		£		2024	2023
		£		£	£
Incoming resources from donors					
2a	Bankers orders to Personal Giving account	89,361	0	89361	82759
	Tax refunds from gift aid.	22,640	0	22640	24651
	Cash collections at all services	8,156	5	8161	8267
Total: 2a		120,157	5	120162	115677
Other voluntary income resources					
2b	Donations	200	40619	40819	41314
	Votive Candles/Literature/Wallbox	0	8625	8625	3988
	Other Fund raising	13,780	16062	29842	36222
Halton 2b	Church Box	0	0	0	0
Total: 2b		13,980	65306	79286	81524
Income from charitable & ancillary trading					
2c	Fees	7,615	14577	22192	20663
	Hire of Church/Cottage	0	2131	2131	1897
Total: 2c		7,615	16708	24323	22560
Other ordinary incoming resources					
2d	Funeral collections	0	7431	7431	5865
	Special collections	0	0	0	432
Total: 2d		0	7431	7431	6297
Income from investments					
2f	Dividends and interest	3,362	514	3876	3478
Total: 2f		3,362	514	3876	3478
Total incoming resources before Legacies: 2a-f		145,114	89964	235078	229535
Legacies 2g	Total: 2g	83,141	30000	113141	0
Total incoming resources: 2a-g		228,255	119964	348219	229535

3. EXPENDITURE

		<i>Unrestricted Expenditure</i>	<i>Restricted Expenditure</i>	<i>TOTAL FUNDS</i>	
		<i>£</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>2024</i>	<i>2023</i>
		<i>£</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>£</i>
Grants					
3a					
	PCC donations	0	0	0	432
	PCC grants	8485	0	8485	8253
	Funeral services	0	7431	7431	5865
Total: 3a		8485	7431	15916	14549
Activities directly related to the activities of the church					
3b					
	Ministry				
	– Parish Share + Dioc Serv Fees	84357	7067	91424	87959
	– Vicarage	3877	0	3877	3656
	– Vicar	2776	0	2776	3524
	– Other Clergy	1947	0	1947	4668
	Church and Services				
	– Building + building insurance	0	27072	27072	22124
	– Service requisites	3876	1020	4896	5664
	– Music				
	Organ/Pianos	0	1466	1466	1920
	Choir	0	2794	2794	3677
	Organists	0	11251	11251	10339
	Parish Organisations	-656	329	-327	122
	St Andrew's Cottage	0	5154	5154	5322
	Memorial Garden Engraving	0	450	450	1279
Total: 3b		96178	56603	152780	150254
Fund-raising and publicity					
3c					
	Cost of events	237	11269	11506	15636
Total: 3c		237	11269	11506	15636
Church management and administration					
3d					
	Copying, stationery and telephone	4527	0	4527	5085
	Bank charges + prof fees + misc	622	0	622	1745
	Parish Administrator	6062		6062	5253
Total: 3d		11211	0	11211	12083
Repairs and maintenance					
3e					
	Miscellaneous			0	0
Total: 3e		0	0	0	0
Projects					
3f					
	Lady Chapel		9480	9480	0
	Quinquennial Inspection		3792	3792	
	Halton Churchyard		4727	4727	
	Office Computer			0	835
	Kitchen Project	42759		42759	0
	New Hymn Books			0	288
Total: 3f		42759	17999	60758	1123
Total expenditure: 3a–f		158869	93301	252170	193645

4 STAFF COSTS	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and Salaries	14,685	12,418

During the year, the PCC paid fees for organists, a trumpeter for Remembrance Day, a cleaner and the Parish Administrator. None of the recipients were paid more than £50,000. No member of the PCC received any remuneration or benefit during the year.

5 INVESTMENTS

CBF CCLA 1S Investment Fund: Units = 853.05 Historic cost = £3,519. Market value at 31 Dec 2024 = **£19724.82** (31 Dec 2023 = **£19283.45**).

M&G Investment Fund. Units = 3033 Historic cost = £12,000. Market value at 31 Dec 2024 = **£44657.81** (31 Dec 2023 = **£43523.25**).

6 DEBTORS	2024	2023
Accrued Income & Prepayments:		
Gift Aid	1877	1669
Insurance Prepaid	1186	1174
Parish Fees	1049	1199
December cash banked in January incl card reader	5863	2941
Hire Fees	0	435
Paid in Advance	137	0
Donations	510	768
	10622	8186

Gift Aid tax claimed has been accrued this year. This accrual is in line with guidance provided from PCC accountability and the Charities Act.

7 CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND	2024	2023
Bank		
– Corbridge PCC (Lloyds)	98607	49,703
– Planned Giving	46600	16,939
– Corbridge PCC (Barclays)	80987	65,450
– Womens Fellowship	820	1,006
– Fabric	43099	43,089
Petty Cash	140	250
	270253	176,438

8 LIABILITIES: FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR	2024	2023
Accrued Costs:		
Advance contributions to events	1001	1151
Organist fees	1365	1248
Utilities	-359	1609
Expenses	1562	210
Prepaid Fees	4450	2231
Invoices	1740	2587
Parish Fees	2031	1400
Funeral collections	157	186
	11946	10622

9 FUND DETAILS

The church maintains restricted funds for specific short and long term purposes for St Andrew's and Halton as well as those associated with specific fund raising initiatives and donations. Financial transactions in which the church is simply an intermediary, receiving and passing on charitable donations as in the cases of funeral services or "bucket" collections, are also treated as belonging to restricted funds.

10 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUND	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	Funds	Funds	
	£	£	£
Investments	64,383	0	64383
Current Assets	173,568	116,465	290033
Current Debtors	4,236	6,386	10622
Current Liabilities	(4,945)	(7,001)	(11,946)
	<u>237,241</u>	<u>115,850</u>	<u>353092</u>

Restricted funds:

	At 1 January 2024	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfers	At 31 December 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Projects	35,781	30514	3,792	0	62,503
Halton	7,799	500	4,727	0	3,572
Church Music	0	13035	19,028	5,993	0
Building Running Costs	0	23394	32,225	8,831	0
Funerals	0	7431	7,431	0	0
Local Emergency	1,159	0	0	0	1,159
Messy Church	0	5	329	324	0
Vicar/Churchwardens etc	1,206	0	0	0	1,206
Try Praying	195	0	0	0	195
Heritage Boards	736	0	0	0	736
DBF	0	7116	7,067	-49	0
1350 Anniversary	1,164	7984	7,752	0	1,396
Ladychapel	25,000	28000	9,480	0	43,520
Other Minor	1,048	1985	1,470	0	1,564
	<u>74,088</u>	<u>119964</u>	<u>93,301</u>	<u>15,099</u>	<u>115,850</u>

Regular income such as standing order receipts, plate collections and parish fees tends to be "unrestricted". This means that the income can be used for any legitimate expenditure incurred subject to normal approval procedures. We carry unrestricted funds which represent the surplus of income over expenditure at any one point in time. These funds can obviously be applied to any legitimate purpose.

When finance which is to be applied to a particular object (for example the Organ Appeal) is received from a donor, it is "restricted" to that purpose. The money has, in effect, been given on condition that it will be spent in that way. Where, however, more money is collected for a particular object than we need, surplus funds can be applied to a purpose which is a "near hit". In the case of the Organ Appeal, for example, this could be some other form of music in the church subject to the approval of PCC. It is not normally possible to hold a negative fund. That would be a situation where we have spent more on a restricted object than we had received. In a case such as that, the shortfall would be made up out of unrestricted funds.

Within our total closing unrestricted funds for 2024 (£237,241), £106,827 came from legacies. Although not restricted, these generous donations have been "designated" (set aside) by PCC for specific purposes. Designation in this way allows PCC the flexibility to apply funds where most needed.

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, CORBRIDGE**

I report on the accounts of the Parish Council for the year ended 31 December 2024 which are attached.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustee and Examiner.

As the members of the Parochial Church Council, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. 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 the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report.

The examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Parochial Church Council and a comparison of the accounts presented with these records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as members concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement.

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (a) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - (i) To keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the act; and
 - (ii) To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act.have not been met; or
- (b) To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

M. Collins
Mike Collins

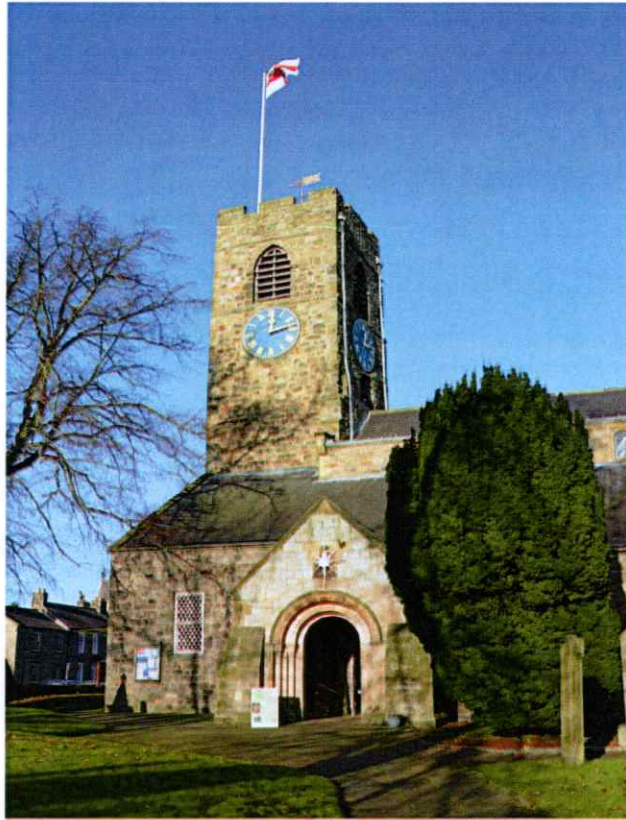
Dated: 24/3/25.

Accounts

The Parish of St Andrew's, Corbridge with St Oswald, Halton and St James, Newton Hall

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31st December 2023



1. Independent Examiner's Report
2. Treasurer's Report
3. Summarised Balance Sheet
4. Summarised Statement of Financial Activities
5. Notes to Financial Statements
6. Grants & Donations

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, CORBRIDGE

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, CORBRIDGE

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Mike Collins

Dated: 18/3/24.

Parochial Church Council of Corbridge, with Halton and Newton Hall.

TREASURER'S REPORT

For the year ending 31st December 2023

1. Summary

In 2023, Our reserves, as reported in the accounts, increased by £36,500. A breakdown of how the increase came about is set out below together with a comparison to the 2022 results:

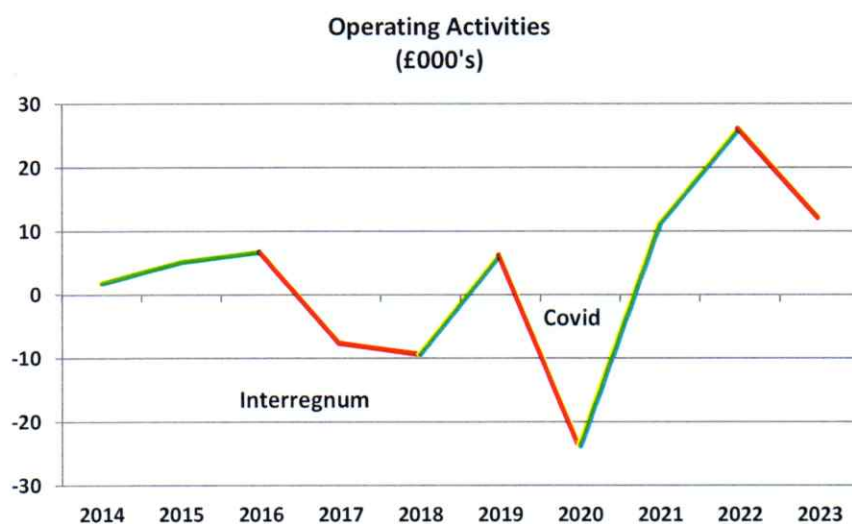
£000's	2023	2022
Surplus on Operating Activities	12.0	26.3
Capital Projects	23.9	-3.7
Change in value of Investments	0.6	-5.0
Net Movement in Funds	36.5	17.6

Note that the Operating Activities result shown for 2022 is shown after adjustment for a timing issue associated with the payment of PCC Grants.

2. Operating Activities

Operating Activities covers all of the activities involved in the regular running of the Church including income from Giving, Donations, Fees and Fundraising and expenditure on Clergy expenses, Church and Cottage maintenance, services, Admin as well as Parish Share. The result is an important indicator of the financial health of the church.

The chart below shows how well we performed with this indicator over the past 10 years.



A strong recovery which began in 2019, following the interregnum, was interrupted by Covid in 2020 but continued thereafter up until 2022. The result for 2023, although still very positive, was £14,000 lower than the year before. This is because:

1. Between 2018 and 2022, income levels rose strongly, particularly with Personal Giving, Donations and Fundraising Events whilst expenditure increased but at a much slower rate.

2. Between 2022 and 2023, income levels flattened with no growth at all on Donations and Fundraising Events whilst there were some significant increases in costs following the need to renew electricity contracts and the employment of a Parish Administrator.

3 year contracts for electricity and gas mean that we have been spared some of the early shocks of increasing energy prices but new contracts for electricity last year and church gas in 2025 will result in higher costs in coming years. In addition, our Parish Share charge, after many years virtually unchanged, increases by £4,000 this year and further robust increases can be expected in future.

3. Capital Projects

Spending on Capital last year was very minor but we did receive a donation of £25,000 from John Ross to be applied to the Lady Chapel project.

4. Investments

The small improvement in the value of our investments last year reflected market conditions. The value of the investments has not recovered to pre Covid levels. During the year we received £3,120 in dividends.

5. Reserves

Our Restricted Reserves of £74,100 are primarily associated with capital spend.

Unrestricted Reserves of £181,400 include £66,200 which was received as a legacy and designated to the work involved in renovating St Andrew's Cottage.

6. Conclusion

Financially, 2023 was certainly a good year for St Andrew's. After paying out £80,000 in Parish Share and £8,000 in charitable grants, we still managed an Operating surplus of £12,000. The fall in the surplus, however, from £26,000 in 2022 to £12,000 in 2023 signals some concerning issues. We are now seeing some punishing increases in electricity costs with more of the same expected from 2025 with Church gas costs. In addition, after a number of years where our Parish Share contribution hasn't changed much, we can expect a lot more pressure in coming years. A flattening in the growth of our income streams coupled with these cost increases is an uncomfortable combination.

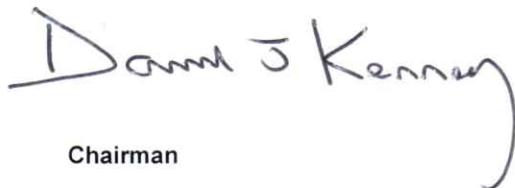
Parocial Church Council of Corbridge with Halton and Newton Hall

SUMMARISED BALANCE SHEET – at 31st December 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
INVESTMENTS			
Investment assets	5		
CBF Fund (CCLA 1S 853.05 shares)		19283	17625
M & G Fund (3033 units)		43523	44571
		<u>62807</u>	<u>62196</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
CBF Fund (CCLA 1D + CCLA 2D)		11518	11160
Cash at bank and in hand	7	176438	137650
Halton General		7141	7141
		<u>195096</u>	<u>155950</u>
<u>ADD ACCRUED INCOME & PREPAYMENTS</u>	6	8186	9219
<u>LESS LIABILITIES FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR</u>	8	10622	8399
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>192660</u>	<u>156770</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>255466</u>	<u>218966</u>
FUNDS			
Unrestricted	10	181378	164745
Restricted		74088	54221
		<u>255467</u>	<u>218966</u>

The attached notes form part of these financial statements.

Approved by the PCC on
and signed on their behalf



Chairman

20/3/24



Treasurer

20/3/24

Parochial Church Council of Corbridge, with Halton and Newton Hall

SUMMARISED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
– for the year ending 31st December 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS 2023 £	2022 £
INCOME & ENDOWMENTS					
Incoming resources from donors	2a	115474	203	115677	111756
Other voluntary income resources	2b	13541	67982	81524	48111
Income from charitable and ancilliary trading	2c	6742	15818	22560	17938
Other ordinary incoming resources	2d	0	6297	6297	3991
Extraordinary Income	2e	0	0	0	1137
Income from investments	2f	3177	301	3478	3186
Total Income & Endowments excl Legacies		138935	90600	229535	186120
EXPENDITURE					
Grants	3a	8050	6499	14549	19136
Activities related to the activities of church	3b	96880	53374	150254	138181
Fund-raising and publicity	3c	642	14995	15636	5702
Church management and administration	3d	12083	0	12083	4408
Repairs & Maintenance	3e	0	0	0	0
Projects	3f	0	1123	1123	3701
Expenditure in relation to prior years		0	0	0	0
Total Expenditure		117654	75991	193645	171128
Legacies Received	2g	0	0	0	0
Net Income/Expenditure (-)		21281	14609	35890	14992
Transfers Between Funds		-5258	5258	0	0
Other Recognised Gains/Losses (-)					
Gains/Losses (-) on Investments		611	0	611	-4981
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		16633	19867	36500	10011
BALANCES BROUGHT FWD AT 1 JAN 2023		164745	54221	218966	208955
BALANCES CARRIED FWD AT 31 DECEMBER 2023		181378	74088	255467	218966

2. INCOME & ENDOWMENTS

		<i>Unrestricted Income</i>	<i>Restricted Income</i>	<i>TOTAL FUNDS</i>	
		£		2023	2022
		£		£	£
Incoming resources from donors					
2a	Bankers orders to Personal Giving account	82,759	0	82759	78997
	Tax refunds from gift aid.	24,651	0	24651	24133
	Planned giving with weekly envelopes	0	0	0	0
	Cash collections at all services	8,064	203	8267	8627
Total: 2a		115,474	203	115677	111756
Other voluntary income resources					
2b	Donations	200	41,114	41314	18385
	Votive Candles/Literature/Wallbox	0	3,988	3988	3071
	Other Fund raising	13,341	22,880	36222	26655
	Organ Appeal	0	0	0	0
Halton 2b	Church Box	0	0	0	0
Total: 2b		13,541	67,982	81524	48111
Income from charitable & ancillary trading					
2c	Fees	6,742	13,921	20663	17008
	Hire of Church/Cottage	0	1,897	1897	930
Total: 2c		6,742	15,818	22560	17938
Other ordinary incoming resources					
2d	Funeral collections	0	5,865	5865	3645
	Special collections	0	432	432	346
Total: 2d		0	6,297	6297	3991
Extraordinary items					
2e	Utilities Support	0	0	0	1137
Total: 2e		0	0	0	1137
Income from investments					
2f	Dividends and interest	3,177	301	3478	3186
Total: 2f		3,177	301	3478	3186
Total incoming resources before Legacies: 2a-f		138,935	90,600	229535	186120
Legacies 2g	Total: 2g	0	0	0	0
Total incoming resources: 2a-g		138,935	90,600	229535	186120

3. EXPENDITURE

		<i>Unrestricted Expenditure</i>	<i>Restricted Expenditure</i>	<i>TOTAL FUNDS</i>	
		£	£	2023	2022
		£	£	£	£
Grants					
3a					
	PCC donations	0	432	432	346
	PCC grants	8,050	203	8253	15145
	Funeral services	0	5,865	5865	3645
Total: 3a		8,050	6,499	14549	19136
Activities directly related to the activities of the church					
3b	Ministry				
	– Parish Share + Dioc Serv Fees	80,340	7,619	87959	83761
	– Vicarage	3,656	0	3656	3484
	– Vicar	3,524	0	3524	3313
	– Other Clergy	4,668	0	4668	8053
	Church and Services				
	– Building + building insurance	0	22,124	22124	16649
	– Service requisites	4,839	825	5664	5838
	– Music				
	Organ/Pianos	0	1,920	1920	648
	Choir	0	3,677	3677	2628
	Camerata	0	0	0	0
	Organists	0	10,339	10339	9012
	Messy Church + Women's Fellowship	-147	269	122	420
	St Andrew's Cottage	0	5,322	5322	4376
	Memorial Garden Engraving	0	1,279	1279	0
Total: 3b		96,880	53,374	150254	138181
Fund-raising and publicity					
3c	Cost of events	642	14,995	15636	5702
Total: 3c		642	14,995	15636	5702
Church management and administration					
3d	Copying, stationery and telephone	5,085	0	5085	3227
	Bank charges + prof fees + misc	1,745	0	1745	1182
	Parish Administrator	5,253		5253	0
Total: 3d		12,083	0	12083	4408
Repairs and maintenance					
3e	Miscellaneous			0	0
Total: 3e		0	0	0	0
Projects					
3f	New Gas Boiler	0	0	0	2291
	Office Computer		835	835	0
	Contribution received for new door			0	-1000
	New Hymn Books		288	288	2410
Total: 3f		0	1,123	1123	3701
Total expenditure: 3a–f		117,654	75,991	193645	171128

4 STAFF COSTS	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages and Salaries	12,418	7,403

During the year, the PCC paid fees for organists, a trumpeter for Remembrance Day, a cleaner and the Parish Administrator. None of the recipients were paid more than £50,000. No member of the PCC received any remuneration or benefit during the year.

5 INVESTMENTS

CBF CCLA 1S Investment Fund: Units = 853.05 Historic cost = £3,519. Market value at 31 Dec 2023 = **£19283.45** (31 Dec 2022 = **£17625.21**).

M&G Investment Fund. Units = 3033 Historic cost = £12,000. Market value at 31 Dec 2023 = **£43523.25** (31 Dec 2022 = **£44570.54**).

6 DEBTORS	2023	2022
Accrued Income & Prepayments:		
Gift Aid	1669	3521
Insurance Prepaid	1174	1076
Parish Fees	1199	0
December cash banked in January incl card reader	2941	4621
Hire Fees	435	0
Donations	768	0
	8186	9219

Gift Aid tax claimed has been accrued this year. This accrual is in line with guidance provided from PCC accountability and the Charities Act.

7 CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND	2023	2022
Bank		
– Corbridge PCC (Lloyds)	49,703	44,867
– Planned Giving	16,939	8,803
– Corbridge PCC (Barclays)	65,450	39,905
– Womens Fellowship	1,006	859
– Fabric	43,089	43,089
Petty Cash	250	126
	176,438	137,650

8 LIABILITIES: FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR	2022	2021
Accrued Costs:		
Advance contributions to events	1151	1165
Organist fees	1248	728
Utilities	1609	2466
Expenses	210	496
Prepaid Fees	2231	1246
BT	331	281
Invoices	2256	1318
Parish Fees	1400	142
Funeral collections	186	556
	10622	8399

9 FUND DETAILS

The church maintains restricted funds for specific short and long term purposes for St Andrew's and Halton as well as those associated with specific fund raising initiatives and donations. Financial transactions in which the church is simply an intermediary, receiving and passing on charitable donations as in the cases of funeral services or "bucket" collections, are also treated as belonging to restricted funds.

10 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUND

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total
	£	£	£
Investments	62,807	0	62807
Current Assets	116,736	78,360	195096
Current Debtors	4,337	3,849	8186
Current Liabilities	(2,502)	(8,121)	(10,622)
	<u>181,378</u>	<u>74,088</u>	<u>255467</u>

Restricted funds:

	At 1 January 2023	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfers	At 31 December 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Projects	36,603	301	1,123	0	35,781
Halton	7,799	0	0	0	7,799
Church Music	0	25909	30,931	5,022	0
Building Running Costs	4,751	22601	27,446	94	0
Funerals	0	5865	5,865	0	0
Other Charities	0	432	432	0	0
PCC Charities	0	203	203	0	0
Local Emergency	1,159	0	0	0	1,159
Messy Church	0	0	269	269	0
Vicar/Churchwardens etc	1,206	0	0	0	1,206
Try Praying	195	0	0	0	195
Heritage Boards	736	0	0	0	736
DBF	0	7620	7,619	-1	0
1350 Anniversary	690	475	0	0	1,164
Ladychapel	0	25000	0	0	25,000
Other Minor	1,083	2195	2,104	-125	1,049
	<u>54,221</u>	<u>90600</u>	<u>75,991</u>	<u>5,258</u>	<u>74,088</u>

Regular income such as standing order receipts, plate collections and parish fees tends to be "unrestricted". This means that the income can be used for any legitimate expenditure incurred subject to normal approval procedures. We carry unrestricted funds which represent the surplus of income over expenditure at any one point in time. These funds can obviously be applied to any legitimate purpose.

When finance which is to be applied to a particular object (for example the Organ Appeal) is received from a donor, it is "restricted" to that purpose. The money has, in effect, been given on condition that it will be spent in that way. Where, however, more money is collected for a particular object than we need, surplus funds can be applied to a purpose which is a "near hit". In the case of the Organ Appeal, for example, this could be some other form of music in the church subject to the approval of PCC. It is not normally possible to hold a negative fund. That would be a situation where we have spent more on a restricted object than we had received. In a case such as that, the shortfall would be made up out of unrestricted funds.

Within our total closing unrestricted funds for 2023 (£181378), £66,245 came from a legacy. Although not restricted, this generous donation has been "designated" (set aside) by PCC for specific purposes. Designation in this way allows PCC the flexibility to apply funds where most needed.

PCC Grants & Donations

	2020	2021	2022	2023
	£	£	£	£
Royal British Legion		230	223	203
Stop Gap	1096		1000	1250
Stop Gap 2021			1200	
Church Mission Society	1918		1925	2425
Church Mission Society 2021			1800	
Practical Compassion for Destitute Children 2021			300	
A Rocha UK	250			900
A Rocha UK 2020/21			1472	
The Yohannes family	1644		1925	2425
The Yohannes family 2021			1800	
Byker PCC/Lighthouse Project	1000			1050
Mission Initiative North East 2021			1000	
Mission Initiative North East 2022			1000	
Climate Stewards			900	
Corbridge Youth Initiative			500	
Cuthbert's Cycling Challenge			100	
Newcastle Cathedral Renovation Project		250		
	5,908	480	15,145	8,253

Note that out of the total payment of £15,145 in 2022, £7,572 related to the 2020 or 2021 discretionary programmes.

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, CORBRIDGE

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, CORBRIDGE

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Mike Collins

Dated: 18/3/24.

**The Parish of St. Andrew's Corbridge with St. Oswald, Halton
and Newton Hall**



**ANNUAL REPORT
for year ending
31st March 2024**

Incumbent

Canon Dr David J Kennedy

Bank

Lloyds Bank, Priestpopple, Hexham. NE46 1PA

Barclays Bank, Priestpopple, Hexham. NE46 1PA



Parish of Corbridge with Halton and Newton Hall Our Parish Mission Statement

Sharing the length and breadth of the love of Jesus

We are a community of Christians, committed to serve the Living God we know in Jesus Christ. Along with every Church in the Diocese of Newcastle we strive to grow the Church and bring hope

- through worship and prayer that is engaged and holy
- in living out and sharing the Gospel by word and deed
- through reaching out to the entire community by caring for all
- by seeking to grow in faith as Christian disciples
- by welcoming visitors into our buildings and our Church life
- by working in partnership with other Christians in our parish, deanery and diocese

To this end

- our doors are open
- our minds are open
- our hearts are open

Inspired by the example of St Andrew, we strive to bring children, teenagers and adults to Jesus.

July 2019

ANNUAL REPORTS

page

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Mission and Ministry

Messy Church	Louise Stubbs	22
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Eco Church	Revd Sam Lothead	27
Book Club	Jennifer Wright	28
Home Group	Anne King-Lewis and Max Philbrick	28
Prayer Group	Jennifer Wright	28
Church Music	Colin Williams	29
Women's Fellowship	Revd Linda E Hunter	31

Outreach

Electronic Communication	Simon A Hunter	32
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Events & Fundraising	Jean Wilks & Revd Linda Hunter	35
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Thanks to Mike Bewick. Simon Hunter, Ian Wylie for contributing photographs to this report.

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church Meeting
held in St Andrew's Church, Corbridge on Sunday 21st May 2023 at 11.10am**

Present:

Canon David Kennedy (Chair), Rev'd Sam Lochhead, Rev'd Linda Hunter and 48 laity.

Apologies:

John Wilson, Susan Wilson, Gail Williams, John Ross, Lynn Ward, Maurice Holmes, Max Philbrick and Monica Philbrick.

Meeting of Parishioners:

This first of two meetings was for the election of Church Wardens, for which anyone voting must be either resident in the parish or on the electoral roll. Both Jean Wilks and David McEwan had been nominated to stand again and their election was agreed unanimously.

- Jean Wilks, proposed by Jenny Evans, seconded by Maureen Davison.
- David McEwan, proposed by Pauline Bennett, seconded by Jean Dean.

David Kennedy expressed sincere thanks to Sue Graves, who though stepping down during the year due to personal circumstances, had continued Christian service with grace.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting:

1. Minutes of meeting held on Sunday 15th May 2022

Acceptance was proposed by Ian Graves, seconded by Janet Kennedy, agreed unanimously and signed by David Kennedy. There were no matters arising.

2. Financial Statement

Cliff Wright spoke to the report and accounts, expressing thanks to all who help and highlighted the main features over the year.

- The level of personal giving including gift aid rose by 6% in the year following another successful annual appeal.
- The value of donations received, including our share of funeral and wedding collections as well as wall safe takings etc and other bona fide contributions, rose by £6,400 with a further £1250 coming from gift aid.
- Net income from fund raising events rose by £7,900
- Income levels were generally excellent with the already mentioned personal giving and donations hitting peaks not seen for many years. The fund-raising total was also very strong, falling just short of the remarkable 2019 total.
- Predictably, some operating costs increased as we moved on from the effects of the pandemic but routine maintenance costs were modest.

- Capital spend was also modest including a new gas boiler for the cottage and the replacement of hymn books covered by a legacy.
- The continuing turbulence in the financial markets meant that much of the increase in the value of the Charifund investment that we saw in 2021 was lost in 2022.
- Reserves at the end of the year were very strong at just short of £219,000.
- Considerable work and expense is needed to meet the requirements of the quinquennial inspections and the cottage at St Andrews.
- 2022 was an extremely successful year when, after adjustment for a timing problem, the surplus on Operating Activities rose from £10,300 in 2021 to a remarkable £26,300. It was a year when all sources of income performed well and there were no unpleasant surprises within expenditure. Longer term contracts avoided for at least a while, the damaging effects of gas and electricity price increases.

3. **Electoral Roll**

David thanked Maureen Davison for maintaining the electoral roll role which stands at 172, a copy of which was available for inspection.

4. **Reports.**

It is the custom to take the reports included in the Annual Report, as read. David thanked everyone involved for their contribution to the booklet which demonstrates a very clear picture of what is happening in all areas of the church. He feels privileged to be Vicar at St Andrew's. He also expressed appreciation to everyone who gave generously of time to support the work across the whole church. Although much goes unseen, all contributes to the spiritual health and wellbeing of our community. Particular thanks were expressed to Linda for her work inducting Lorna into the newly created post of administrator.

5. **Elections.**

With the retirement of Sue Graves, Anne King Lewis, Monica and Max Philbrick from the PCC, there were four vacancies. Four nominations had been received and their election agreed unanimously.

- Lynn Ward, proposed Alice Stephenson, seconded Maureen Davison
- John Clark, proposed Pauline Bennett, seconded Sue Graves
- Max Philbrick proposed Anne King Lewis, seconded Diane Wylie
- Edward Pybus, proposed Cliff Wright, seconded Jon Williams.

Two nominations to Deanery Synod were received and approved unanimously.

- Alice Stephenson, proposed Jean Wilks, seconded Diane Wylie
- Janet Kennedy, proposed Liz Buckley, seconded Sue Graves.

6. Appointment of Independent Examiner:

Cliff Wright reported that Mike Collins was happy to remain as independent examiner.

Acceptance was proposed by Alice Stephenson, seconded by Liz Buckley and agreed unanimously.

7. AOB.

Jean Wilks thanked David Kennedy for his inspirational leadership, and Janet, his wife for giving of her time so generously to support him.

There being no further business, the meeting closed in prayer.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC) 2023 – 2024

Churchwardens Jean Wilks David McEwan

PCC Elected Members

2021 – 2024

Val Barnes Jo Eldridge Edward Pybus

2022 - 2025

Nahidah Remy John Wilson

2023 – 2026

John Clark Max Philbrick

Deanery Synod

Alice Stephenson Janet Kennedy



Introduction

It was hard to believe that last October, I have been in Corbridge for five years. How time flies. I can look back on that time in three phases – the first 15 months of getting to know both Church and community, beginning to develop church life and assessing our strengths and weaknesses. The second phase was the challenge of the Pandemic with all that stopping and starting. The months of Zoom meetings, telephone ministry, You-Tube videos, social distancing, the closure of our buildings, not being allowed to sing, masks, hand sanitizer, and tragically, many funerals – all now seems like a bad dream. But then, phase three and the return to something like normality as once again, we seek to move forward with energy and purpose. And, of course, phase four will be our 1350th Celebration Year beginning in October. We have exciting times ahead as a Church family and as a community.

Worship

The big development in our worship over the past year has been the introduction of *Simply Worship* (a name 'borrowed' from Morpeth Parish) on Sunday afternoons at 4pm. This now gives us an afternoon pattern of Messy Church on the second Sunday, *River* on the fourth Sunday and *Simply Worship* on the other Sundays of the month. While it was sad to bid farewell to 1662 Evening Prayer (which will have been used at St Andrew's for over 400 years), nevertheless, the time was right to try something new. So now we have an informal contemporary Service of the Word (which is an authorized alternative to Morning and Evening Prayer in the Church of England) with sermon series (the first has been exploring selected Psalms), meeting in the North Transept in the round. It has been encouraging to have a congregation of between 10-20 people each Sunday. So, we are offering a diversity of worship styles at St Andrew's which we believe will be an important part of our developing mission.

An innovation this past year was to focus on creation/environment for a month during the early autumn at our morning worship. This is part of an ecumenical and international initiative to make issues of ecology and concern to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth (Mark 5, the Anglican Five Marks of Mission'). This will become an annual part of our worship pattern, incorporating Harvest Thanksgiving. We also kept the Rogation Days with both the Sunday morning service and a prayer walk from Corbridge to Halton and back again. We have also welcomed speakers from some of our 'Take 5' charities that we support prayerfully and financially, including speakers from Gap Supported Housing, The Byker 'Lighthouse Project' and our recently retired CMS Mission Partners, Phil and Sylvie Good.

We continue to celebrate the Christian year fully through liturgy, preaching, music, and symbol. We had a moving Advent Procession, 'Three Wonders' Epiphany Service, a shared Covenant Service with Corbridge Methodists, our Dedication Festival in October (St Wilfrid's-tide), the well-attended All Souls' service and Remembrance Sunday Civic Service, as well as moving Evening Eucharists for Candlemas (with hundreds of tea-lights), Ash Wednesday, and Ascension Day. Advent and Christmas were as busy as ever with a packed Church for the three Community Carols services during the Tree Festival, a beautiful outdoor Carol Service with Hexham Brass with 278 attending, and excellent attendances on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day (855 people attended at either St Andrew's or Halton). During Lent, the weekly Compline included addresses on the Northern Saints and in Holy Week, four addresses on 'Friends of Jesus'. The Passiontide Holy Week liturgies were rich; a special choral devotion *Behold the Man* on Passion Sunday, and our customary liturgies for Maundy Thursday evening, Good Friday and Easter Day, which excellent music from the choir, with 243 people at worship on Easter Day. The ministry of prayer and the laying-on-of-hands and/or anointing with the oil of healing is now well established with autumn and spring special services on Sunday morning. We were delighted to welcome our Bishop, Bishop Helen-Ann to Corbridge for the first time to lead a service of confirmation in October and to give a Lent talk in February.



People

The undoubted highlight of the year was Linda Hunter's ordination as Priest. As with her Deaconing, a bus-full of members of St Andrew's attended her ordination, led by Bishop Helen-Ann, at the Cathedral. Then on 5th July, Linda presided at the Eucharist at St Andrew's for the first time. It was an evening of great joy and celebration. Her first Eucharist celebrated St Columba of Iona and the preacher was Bishop Dagmar Winter. Linda has settled into priestly ministry with amazing confidence and assurance; it's hard to believe that she has only been exercising this ministry for 10 months.



In June, we welcomed the Revd Phil Smith as an Associate Priest of this parish. Phil is a full-time psycho-therapist which involves a lot of weekend work but we have greatly enjoyed Phil's skills as worship leader and preacher both on the Sundays when he is free and on Wednesday mornings. The ministry team has also been enriched by the appointment of the Revd Claire Robson as our second Associate priest in January. Claire has quickly established herself and like, Phil, presides and preaches with tremendous verve and insight. We are fortunate indeed to have such gifted clergy here.

At Harvest, we celebrated the Revd Jenny Kinnaird's long and wonderful service to St Andrew's and the wider Church. Jenny decided to retire from active ministry but we are so grateful for her ministry as both Reader and Priest. She continues to be a priestly presence among us. We congratulate the Revd Sam Lohead on his appointment as Priest-in-Charge of Seaton Hirst in Ashington. Sam's farewell service will be at 10am on Sunday 2nd June followed by presentations and a shared lunch. Sam has been called to a major urban parish and we send with him our love, prayers and support. We will miss him enormously here, but we are grateful for the four years he has shared with us and ministered to us.

Jennifer Wright has continued her role as Pastoral Assistant, and Diane Wylie has contributed to our preaching and teaching ministry. Paul Morris preached at one of our services exploring healing, bringing his insight from his profession as a GP. The *River* Team all contribute to our *River*

Gatherings, and it has been great to see gifts being exercised in leading, sharing the word and in the music group. In December, Hilary Hunter began as our new Part-time Parish Administrator, and Hilary has made a tremendous start, bringing energy and accuracy, and initiating excellent systems. Charlotte Alexandra has completed her first year as our Cleaner, and has proved to be a first-class appointment. We were saddened by the death of a number of worshipping members of our Church community over the recent year, notably Rita Atkinson, Joan Smith, Roger Thorn KC, Daphne Anderson and of course, John Ross, our Organist Emeritus and Robin Gray. John gave a life-time of service to St Andrew's and we miss his cheerful presence and excellent musicianship. We look forward to a Memorial Concert later this year. I'm so glad he saw the Church organ restored and enhanced as it was his vision for the instrument. Robin has given years of devoted service both to the Diocese and Churches to which he has belonged; we will miss his gentle and wise presence among us, his acumen as a historian, and his commitment to furthering good ecumenical relationships. In June we held a memorial service for John Sykes, former Director of Music, when past and present members of the Church Choir brought music of which John would have been proud.

Mission and Ministry

Various opportunities were offered to help us grow in faith. As well as the Home Group, Book Club and Prayer Group, we once again used the *Thy Kingdom Come* material in Ascensiontide. We have continued our periodic *Exploring the Bible* group studies, studying Jonah in the early Summer, the Book of Revelation in the autumn and the four Servant Songs of Isaiah during Lent. We continue our Schools' ministry; Linda takes assemblies and services at Mowden Hall School, we do periodic assemblies in the Middle School, and weekly assemblies at our Church of England First School. The First School also come to Church to celebrate Harvest, Christmas, Easter and the End of the School Year as well as Church visits as part of the RE curriculum. It has been great to see our Pastoral Ministry developing apace.

As well as the now well-established Tea and Chat, we have teams ministering to Charlotte Straker House, Burn Brae Lodge and Abbeyfield, a lay Home Communion Team and pastoral visiting team. The Occasional Offices of baptisms, weddings and funerals remains an important aspect of our ministry to the wider community, as well as all we seek to do in partnership with the local community as can be read elsewhere in this Annual Report. In 2023 we launched a new and splendid web-site, and I am grateful to Simon Hunter for all his work in designing and building this vital source of communication. In the autumn we commissioned a new 'Welcome Card' to welcome people moving into Corbridge and those attending Church. Bob and Jo Eldridge have led a small team of visitors who have visited the new estate, the Jamieson Drive estate, and other areas of the Parish will follow in due course. It is good to see new people joining our regular rotas, reading and interceding, our welcome team, coffee team and ministers of communion.

Slaley and Healey and the Wider Deanery

Following the Revd Helen Savage's retirement last October, the Corbridge Ministry Team has been assuming pastoral oversight of Slaley, Healey and Whittonstall as well as supporting vacancies in St John Shotley, Bywell, Stocksfield and Mickley. This has brought extra work and responsibility our way. Linda Hunter has been exemplary in attending the fortnightly *Snack and Chat* at Slaley and supporting Schools ministry and Slaley Messy Church. I'm grateful to the service cover provided by Canon Michael Thompson and the Revd Barbara McNamara in the vacancies, as well as their regular participation in our Wednesday morning communion here at St Andrew's. And indeed, to my ministerial colleagues for sharing in this extended ministry. The old Moorland Group has major building projects at Blanchland, Muggleswick, Whittonstall and Edmundbyers. We are seeking to support Wardens and PCCs as best we can, but Linda has also given invaluable support around Faculty applications and other legal and statutory requirements.



Conclusion

On a personal level, I have been touched and humbled by the love and care extended to myself and Janet following my fall in February. We received so many cards, texts, and practical expressions of love and kindness. Fortunately, I am now making good progress, but many people have stepped up to the mark in ensuring that the work and ministry of the Parish has continued. I am enormously grateful. At Linda's Ordination I was struck by some words from the service, that priests are called to share with the Bishop in the oversight of the Church, 'delighting in its beauty and rejoicing in its well-being'. This is partly based on Ephesians 5, where we read, 'Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her in order to make her holy by cleansing her with the washing of water by the word, so as to present the church to himself in splendour, without a spot or wrinkle or anything of the kind, so that she may be holy and without blemish'. While the Church is fragile and fallible, nevertheless, it

is the beautiful sacrament of the Lord's presence and love, and will at the last be presented to the Lord in perfection and true beauty. There have been many times when I have seen the beauty of the Church here in Corbridge and I continue to delight in its well-being. As we look forward to our 1350th, may the Lord give the increase as we celebrate the faith and give thanks for this remarkable unbroken witness of thirteen and a half centuries. Praise God.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

David



ELECTORAL ROLL

Maureen Davison

At the beginning of the year there were 172 names on the Electoral Roll. During this year 6 names have been added and there have been 4 names removed.

The current number of names on the Electoral Roll is 174.

MEMBERSHIP 2023-2024

Members of the PCC are either ex officio, elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with Church Representation Rules, or co-opted by the PCC. During the year the following served as members of the PCC:

Ex officio:

Vicar:	Canon David J Kennedy
Assistant Curate:	The Rev'd Sam Lohead
Assistant Curate:	The Rev'd Linda E Hunter
Associate Priests:	The Rev'd Phil Smith, The Rev'd Claire Robson
Churchwardens:	David McEwan, Jean Wilks

Val Barnes	John Clark	Jo Eldridge
Max Philbrick	Edward Pybus	Nahida Remy
Lynne Ward	John Wilson	

Elected at APCM, as representatives on the Deanery Synod:

Alice Stephenson	Janet Kennedy
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Co-opted

Cliff Wright	Treasurer
Carol Moffatt	Minute Secretary

STANDING COMMITTEE

It is a requirement by law that a Standing Committee is appointed. It sets the agenda for the PCC meeting and deals with business in between meetings.

Members during 2023-24: Vicar, Assistant Curates, Churchwardens, Treasurer.

WELCOMES AND FAREWELLS

In May 2023 we welcomed three new members: John Clark, Janet Kennedy and Lynne Ward. We thank them all for joining us and for all that they have brought to the PCC. (Lynne stood down in September 2023.)

Two PCC members completed their term of office at the 2023 APCM: Anne King-Lewis and Monica Philbrick. We thank them both for their many contributions and their hard work.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

Seven meetings of the PCC and seven of the Standing Committee were held during the last year, following the APCM on 21st May 2023. PCC has been very busy throughout the year with a range of topics discussed. More detail may be found elsewhere in this report, and in the Minute File available on request or on the website.

TOPICS COVERED

As well as our regular business, and one-off events covered elsewhere in this report, we have also discussed:

- Mission statement: part of each PCC meeting is used to review a specific section of our mission statement.
- Changes to Ministry Team, incl. ordination of Revd Linda Hunter as Priest, and licensing of Revd Phil Smith and Revd Claire Robson as Associate Priests.
- Support for parishes in Slaley, Healey and Whittonstall following retirement of their priest.
- Welcome card: a card has been produced, and delivered to new Corbridge residents.
- Appointment of Parish Administrator.
- Corbridge Methodist Church: working together following closure of their building.
- Corbridge Community Partnership and Community Hub: joint working and development.
- Plans for St Andrew's 1350th anniversary celebrations: a sub-committee is planning a range of exciting events and projects.
- Pastoral Visiting.
- Plans for the Coronation weekend.
- Capital projects, especially refurbishment of the Cottage, and a proposed enhancement of the Lady Chapel.
- Restoration of the Common Cup following Covid restrictions.
- New on-line church diary.
- New website.
- Legacy policy.

May 2024							May 2024		
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
29	30	1	2	3	4	5	29 Apr	30	1 May
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	8:50 Morning prayer	8:50 Morning prayer	8:50 Morning prayer
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	9:30 Staff Meeting	9:00 First School Asser	10:00 Craft Fest Meeting
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	11:00 Funeral - Church then	9:30 River planning group	10:00 Holy Communion
27	28	29	30	31	1	2	+2	+2	+3
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	06	07	08
							8:50 Morning prayer	8:50 Morning prayer	8:50 Morning prayer
							9:30 Staff Meeting	9:00 First School Asser	10:00 Holy Communion
							11:00 Charlotte Straker Se	10:00 Book Club	11:00 Maintenance Meeti
							16:15 Evening Prayer	+2	+3



CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT

David McEwan and Jean Wilks

We have had another very busy year as your churchwardens. We are both members of the PCC, Standing Committee and Maintenance Committee, so we share in all decision-making about the work and upkeep of our churches. We are responsible for maintaining the church building and property, and addressing health and safety issues, and we oversee the work of our church cleaner. We have turned our hands to a wide variety of tasks when required, including counting money, lots of odd jobs and repairs, changing light bulbs, ladder inspections, locking/unlocking church, cleaning loos, clearing cobwebs, sorting out store cupboards, putting up banners in the churchyard, and stocking the bar for concerts!

As ever, we thank all our Ministry team for their tireless work and enthusiasm, and for being so inspiring to work with. We also thank their partners and families for supporting them in all the work that they do. This was an exciting year, which saw Linda's ordination as Priest, the licensing of Phil and Claire as our new Associate Priests, and ending with news of Sam's imminent move to pastures new at the end of his Curacy.

Part of our role is to oversee all those who take part in our Ministry of Welcome, and we couldn't do this without the fantastic work done by Sue Graves, Nahida Remy and Hilary Hunter. Sue, as Senior Welcomer, keeps everything running smoothly before, during and after services, and co-ordinates the welcomers, readers, intercessors and chalice volunteers on each week's rota. Nahida oversees the volunteers on the weekly coffee rota. And Hilary compiles all the rotas as part of her role as Parish Administrator. We are so grateful to them, and to everyone who volunteers for all these vital roles. This is a really important part of our Ministry, helping to welcome everyone who comes into church. It is also a great way of getting to know more people! So, if you haven't yet signed up to help, please do have a word with one of us, and give it a try.

Thanks also to everyone involved in all the other tasks, rotas and committees which ensure that things run smoothly for all our different services and activities. There are far too many of you to mention by name, but we really do appreciate all your hard work.

The pattern of services has continued unchanged with Holy Communion celebrated on the first Sunday of each month and at Christmas and Easter, the latter falling this time on the last day of our reporting period and providing an appropriate culmination. The core congregation numbers around 15, increased at Christmas and Easter to 25-30, and we are hugely grateful to Canon David Kennedy and his team for their regular conduct of those services and the enthusiasm they bring to them. David himself and Revd's Sam Lohead and Linda Hunter together with Revd's Michael Thompson and Barbara McNamara from the retired clergy have all presided and/or preached and latterly we have had great pleasure in welcoming Revd Claire Robson too.



Additionally, the (now traditional) Choral Evensong was held in June to coincide with the garden opening at Halton Castle. Colin Williams brought the St Andrew's choir and organist and together, filling the church with resounding and glorious music, they created something very special. It was much appreciated: the church was packed. Also, Sam incorporated the church and a service there in the Rogation Prayer Walk which he organised in May. There were three occasional services too: the saying of Evensong in July, a Baptism in September and a Burial of Ashes in May.

The church continues to attract many visitors and part of its joy lies in looking through the comments made in the Visitors Book. Some come by chance, many of them walking Hadrian's Wall; some

come repeatedly. All express delight at finding the church open and go on to find inspiration and consolation in the peace and beauty of the place. A local visitor has written "In memory of my mother ... who loved this place", capturing the experience perfectly.

On the administrative side much time and effort have been expended by the churchwardens in arranging the essential works of maintenance and repair to the church building required by the recent Quinquennial Report. Builders have been instructed and work is scheduled to commence this coming spring or summer depending on the weather.

Thanks go to everyone who has contributed to the life and spirit of Halton and most especially to the Blackett family who keep the churchyard beautifully mown, a big job, and the team who provides us with the most stunning flowers.



SAFEGUARDING



www.churchofengland.org/more/safeguarding for further information

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Mandy Norton Tel: 01434 632585

Safer Recruitment Officer: Richard Adams Tel: 01434 634869

Asst PSO (Admin): Linda E Hunter Tel: 01434 633742

'The Church of England is committed to the safeguarding, care and nurture of everyone within the church community so that all can flourish in faith and know the love of God.' Here in St. Andrew's and Halton we need to remember that we are all responsible for keeping each other safe. Mandy is always available to listen if you have any safeguarding concerns. She can also point you in right direction if you need any information or further support. Richard looks after the recruitment paperwork in particular the Volunteer forms and on-line DBS checks, new and renewals.

Over the last year we have continued using the **National Church Dashboard** in order to keep up to date with all that we need to do to ensure that our churches are safe places. We have consistently been at level 3 (highest level!!) Safer recruitment is really important as we ensure that we recruit to roles safely and those who work with children or vulnerable adults have all the appropriate checks. All those involved in roles which require Safeguarding training have participated in the appropriate course for their role - Basic Awareness, Foundation or Leadership. In addition, some people have received training in Domestic Violence Awareness and Safer Recruiting. Basic Awareness training is completed on line and anyone who wants to know more about Safeguarding can go on the Church of England website and register to complete this training.

Over the last year we were part of a trial for the **Safeguarding Hub** which links in with the Parish Dashboard. It helps us keep track of all the training required for specific roles and DBS renewal dates. It is a very useful tool but has taken up a lot of time to set up and now to continue to maintain. However, it is really important to have parity across the C of E for the recruitment of volunteers. It has now been launched country wide.

Safeguarding is on the agenda of every PCC meeting and all PCC members are kept up to date current information. All policies and procedures are revised, renewed and approved at the October PCC meeting.

Remember if you have any concerns please speak to Mandy or one of the clergy, or Carol Butler: Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser.

The fabric of both our churches is in serviceable condition, and all goods and ornaments are as required for worship and events to take place in St. Andrew's and St. Oswald's.

The Maintenance Committee

The committee meets regularly and reports to PCC. Members are Jon Williams, Jane Darbyshire-Walker, Peter Cook, Canon David Kennedy, Rev'd Linda Hunter, and both churchwardens. The committee is especially indebted to Jon, Jane and Peter for all their wisdom, expertise and hard work. Jane and Peter have joined us this year, and both bring a wealth of knowledge and experience. Jon is the committee's designated Eco-Champion, ensuring that environmental concerns are taken on board in all discussion and decision-making. Michael Rae retired from the committee in May 2023; we are enormously grateful to Michael for all the expertise, hard work and commitment he has given over many years in the maintenance of our buildings, and for his guidance to the committee.

Quinquennial Inspections and recommendations

Inspections of both churches, and of the cottage, were commissioned in 2021.

- **St Andrew's Cottage** was inspected in 2021; the recommended work has been commenced (see below).
- **Halton Church** was inspected in 2022, and the recommended work is in progress, including repairing the chest tomb, work on the paths, minor repairs and maintenance, and some repointing.
- **St Andrew's Church.** The inspection was finally completed in August 2023; the report and its recommendations are awaited.

Maintenance and works undertaken

- **Statutory Requirements.** During the year we have had inspections of the fire extinguishers, boilers, alarm system, and ladders. Electrical PAT testing was done in November 2023. The 5-yearly electrical inspection at Halton was done in 2023 and all recommendations actioned. (Electrical inspections of St Andrew's church and the cottage were done in 2022.)
- **Clock.** The clock's annual inspection was done in October 2023. We are grateful to Mike Collins who checks, monitors and adjusts the clock when required. Fortunately, it no longer needs winding three times a week, thanks to the automated winding installed in 2021.
- **Roof.** Maintaining a watertight roof, as with all historic buildings, is an ongoing process. There have been some leaks in the north transept and the vicar's vestry; repairs are in hand.

- **Church lighting.** All defective bulbs in the chandeliers and high-level lights were replaced during 2023. Maintaining and balancing our complex lighting system is a continual challenge.
- **Church heating.** We have commenced a programme of work with a view to the possible replacement of the boiler because, due to its age, parts for it are now difficult to obtain. We are consulting with professional engineers to determine options. We also need to replace its programmer, which has become unreliable.
- **Cottage.** Work is in progress to control and eliminate damp, prior to installation of a new kitchen. It has taken us some time to reach this stage, mainly because of delays with project management which have now been addressed.
- **Churchyard and garden.** We have a good working relationship with the Parish Council, which has responsibility for the churchyard, including grass cutting and safety of footpaths and trees. In March 2024, a volunteer working party was organised to do our regular spring tidy-up. Thank you to all who came on the day, and who work in the churchyard at other times throughout the year, and especially to Warwick and Suzette Milne for their work in the cottage garden.
- **Tuning.** The organ is tuned 3 times a year. The church piano is tuned at least twice a year, often arranged and funded by musicians hiring the church for performances. The cottage piano is tuned once a year.



Projects and plans

- **1350th anniversary project.** Much consideration has been given to a proposed project to enhance St Andrew's Lady Chapel, as part of our 1350th anniversary celebrations.
- **Newton churchyard.** An application is in progress for a Faculty to convert a section of the churchyard into a memorial garden for interment of ashes. If successful, we will then apply for the remainder of the churchyard (which now has no vacant burial plots) to be closed, meaning that its maintenance will become the responsibility of the local authority.

Utilities: contract renewals

New electrical contracts for St Andrew's, Halton and the cottage commenced in May 2023. The cottage gas contract is being renewed in May 2024. St Andrew's gas contract runs until March 2025.

Health & Safety

Review of our fire safety risk assessments is ongoing. Event risk assessments are carried out for all new events.

Security Review

We regularly monitor our security arrangements. If you have any church key and are no longer in the role for which it was issued, please return it to the Parish Administrator.

Thank You

The fabric of our churches is well looked after, and we are extremely grateful to all those who contribute to this in any way, by giving their time, expertise or financial help. It is impossible to thank all those who play a part in this, as so many people are involved. We are always looking for more volunteers to take on maintenance tasks or responsibilities; if you could offer some help, please speak to the churchwardens.



MISSION AND MINISTRY

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES

MESSY CHURCH

Louise Stubbs

Messy Church is currently celebrating its fourteenth year which is an amazing achievement, heralded by the team and our leader, Revd. Linda Hunter.

The Messy Church banner is in a prominent position in the church grounds. It is impossible to miss! The banner serves a dual purpose as a reminder for our regular participating families and an open invitation for any visiting families to join us. Flyers are also distributed in school, displayed on the Church notice board, the website and the Church Facebook page. These are designed and produced by Max Philbrick. Our team would welcome anyone who may be interested in helping, to come along to a Messy Church and join in with the fun.

The team have regular planning/review meetings. The Ministry Team are fully involved in Messy Church. The team are grateful for their involvement and support. During the above period we have also been joined by Rev'd Barbara McNamara.

The Messy Church format has remained unchanged. We begin with a welcome and game with good participation by everyone. A video is used to introduce the story/theme for the day. Max Philbrick is invaluable in operating all the technology required for this part of the worship. A member of the team tells the story. A physical activity is always provided. Several table top activities are also available. Families have freedom to choose what they would like to take part in. Any items made, subsequently go home!

The afternoon concludes with a recap of the story, song and prayers. This is followed by a 'buffet style' tea cooked by Janet Morrison. We are grateful to Janet for making such wonderful teas and her creativity, in linking her 'bakes' to our theme.

Our attendance figures have varied considerably over the past year with recent numbers being very low. We are currently considering ways in which we can encourage more families to participate. For a trial period -May, June and July we are going to change the time to 4.00pm to see whether this might be an acceptable time for families.

Some of the themes we have addressed have included;

Good Friday/Easter activities, The Miraculous Catch, Go Green for God (EC0), Feeding of the 5,000, The 10 men healed by Jesus, the mustard seed, I am the vine and you are the branches, Getting ready for Christmas (Advent) The wise and foolish man,

As always, our thoughts and prayers remain with all our Messy Church Families and everyone who contributes, in any way. We greatly value all their support and hope that any changes we make will enable us to share the Christian gospel with all who come.



Used with permission

There have been 9 meetings during the year.

Members have also visited GAP, attended the St Andrew's ECO Group, hosted the Goods during their visit to Corbridge, updated the Take 5 noticeboard, been part of the prayer rota on Sunday mornings, attended PCC and kept up to date with each of the missions/charities which we support.

We have continued to support:

- Getachew and Gezashign and their family in Ethiopia
- GAP Project in Hexham,
- ARocha (this year choosing to support a "Farming God's Way" project),
- CMS: This year we have said goodbye to the Goods who have retired from their work in Lebanon and said hello to Andrew and Lisa Peart in Bolivia.
- Lighthouse/MINE in Byker, Newcastle.

We welcomed Dave Johnson (MINE Youth Project Co-ordinator) at a 10am service in 2023, and were joined by Phil and Sylvie Good at 10am and a River gathering in January.

Our total giving for the year was £8000.



The past year has seen our Pastoral outreach grow and expand. We have a Pastoral lead team who meet to plan and ensure that progress is being made in all the areas we are keen to develop.

Pastoral Visitors

We have a team of people who have attended 3 half day trainings covering a range of topics, pertinent to Pastoral visitors, on line Safeguarding training and in addition, Revd Janet Jackson, who worked with Tynedale Hospice, has run a day training on Bereavement visiting for them. Our team all have official lanyards which they wear when visiting. If you know someone who would like an occasional or regular visit or would like one yourself, please do contact Linda and that can be arranged.

RESIDENTIAL HOMES

We now have teams of people who lead monthly worship in the Residential Homes.

Abbeyfield House: Diane Wylie and Maurice Holmes

It has been a privilege and pleasure to give the residents a short Service of the Word and to share thoughts and personal cares together afterwards. We begin with prayers and a traditional hymn. There is a bible passage which may mirror the time of the church year and/ or theme. e.g. Christmas, Lent, Remembrance.

There is a short talk, then prayers, intercessions and closing hymn. I started going with Maurice Holmes last August and lately with Mike Bewick when Maurice has been unable to attend.

The time with chats after the Service is valuable too. There is usually an issue we can all join with in the conversation.

Burn Brae Lodge: Jennifer Wright and Monica Philbrick

As part of the church's mission and ministry, a small team visit Burn Brae once a month. Following the long break caused by the Covid 19 outbreak we returned to do a "Service of the Word". We changed this format in order to make better connections and engage in more meaningful conversations with those residents who join us in our worship service. To help us, we use a book called "Living Liturgies" by Caroline George. Using this "interactive" format we feel that every one of us has benefited.

Charlotte Straker House: Bob and Jo Eldridge

We visit Charlotte Straker Residential Home once a month to hold a short service for the residents. We normally have around 8 attending. We follow a service sheet starting with a familiar hymn accompanied by taped music, followed by prayers and a bible reading. A short talk is prepared

that follows the theme of the reading. We end with another favourite hymn. Coffee is also served giving time for chatting and getting to know the residents.



Mike Bewick and Liz Buckley are happy to fill in when required with any of the teams.

HOME COMMUNION

A team of people: Jennifer Wright, Alice Stephenson, Liz Buckley, Mike Bewick, Jo Eldridge, and Diane Wylie have recently undertaken training and are now authorised to take Communion to people in their own homes. We have currently 6 people on our list receiving home communion but we could easily visit more housebound people if they would like to receive communion in their own home.

TEA AND CHAT

Mike Bewick

Tea and Chat has been running at The Community Hub for just over a year, the numbers have grown from c10 to c42 people coming along at any one time, to enjoy fellowship with both friends old and new. This happens twice a month on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday.

The initiative started by Linda is a great success in bringing people together people, those of different faiths and none. A huge Thank You to Ann Duncan who cooks all the cakes, organises the other volunteers in the kitchen and serving customers. Thanks to those who help Alice, Ellie, Janice, Mike, Harry, Daphne and Margaret. Linda, Alice and Mike offer lifts to those less able to come on their own. Looking forward to serving more people in 2024. Do come along and visit us in the Community Hub



ECO CHURCH

Revd Sam Lohead

The last year has seen significant growth and development in relation to St Andrew's environmental work. This includes achieving our A Rocha Eco Church Bronze Award, which reflects work and progress in a significant variety of areas - from teaching and ministry through to engagement with the wider community, as well as the use of our church buildings and churchyard.

Throughout the past year this work has included last summer's Eco Festival, which saw various community groups produce displays and volunteers in church having discussions with parishioners and visitors. The Festival included musical performances and a panel discussion, which allowed for the sharing of great reflections from panellists and those who came, particularly around the role of the church in responding to the climate crisis (locally, nationally, and internationally). This was a wonderful event, and I remain very grateful to all those who in various ways worked so hard to help make it a success.

Linked to this, there have been several further opportunities for environmental concerns to take a prominent place in our prayer and worship as a church, including in our work with young people through Messy Church, and at one of our informal River gatherings.

Other work by the Eco Committee has included scoping out possibilities of churchyard wildlife surveys and other work 'behind the scenes' looking at our church's energy use and buildings, in the hopes of considering ways we can all work to reduce our environmental footprint.

In light of all this, huge thanks must go to all members of the Eco Committee for their commitment and their time in ensuring that this important aspect of our missional work continues to move forward. All of these achievements so far are a cause for real celebration, and are also an excellent launching pad as we begin to look ahead towards achieving our Silver Award as a church.

BOOK CLUB

Jennifer Wright

This is a small group meeting almost every week. We have read two books this year both by Kathryn Mannix. We have also spent some weeks looking at Old Testament prophets using a Scripture Union study booklet and other weeks doing Lectio Divino

HOME GROUP

Anne King-Lewis, Max Philbrick

We meet every Thursday at 4pm in the home of Max and Monica Philbrick except in holiday times. There are usually 8-10 of us and we have open discussion on differing topics based on the Bible or associated books. Last year we used Stephen Cottrell's book 'The Things He Carried, A journey to the Cross'. Autumn 2023 was a highlight when we used videos from the Bible Society to study Paul's letter to the Romans presented by Andrew Ollerton with wonderful views of Rome in the background!! To start 2024, we studied various Psalms and in Lent we have read and discussed the 4 Servant Songs from Isaiah.

We would welcome anyone who might wish to join us. That would be lovely!! Just let us know if you are coming so we can put out enough seats!!

PRAYER GROUP

Jennifer Wright

We meet every Thursday afternoon in church for a short time when we pray for current issues relevant to our lives here in Corbridge as well as those relating to the country and the rest of the world.

We pray for the work of the ministry team and all of the groups working within our church including the regular church services, Messy church and River. We pray for those people we know who are unwell and people who have asked for prayer for their particular needs. Every week we hold before God in pray those people who have left prayer requests on the prayer board.

In addition, we pray for those chosen charities we support each year.

These include

- Gap Supported Housing for the homeless in Hexham and Tynedale
- The work of MINE (Mission Initiative North East) a Christian organization working with the young people in Byker Newcastle. Following a grant of £4.2million made to the Lighthouse project at St Michael's Church Byker which will be transformed into a state-of-the-art youth and community hub. We contribute to the work of St Michael's church in Byker.
- Church Mission Society in particular the work of our new mission partners Andrew and Lisa Peart in Bolivia.
- A Rocha UK Eco church Programme and our care for creation.
- Wycliffe Bible Translators Getachew and Gesashign Yohannes in Ethiopia.

The last twelve months have been both a time of remembrance for departed friends and a celebration of new beginnings. Throughout the year the choir has endeavoured to respond to a series of very different events with appropriate and evocative music.

The last report was written just before the Coronation celebrations. The choir seized the opportunity to sing Handel's 'Zadok the Priest' and a new commission for the RSCM by Joannah Forbes L'Estange entitled 'The mountains shall bring peace', which was sung in many Parish Churches throughout the country on the Coronation Sunday.

In June there was a special memorial service for John Sykes, a stellar organist and choir director throughout the 1990's. Many members of his choir from that very special period in the history of music in St Andrew's came back to sing one of the motets for which he will ever be remembered - Bruckner's Locus Iste.

We no longer have a regular opportunity (or the voices) to sing Choral Evensong, and in June it was a pleasure to repeat our annual visit to the little church at Halton to sing a simple choral liturgy.

In July we celebrated the ordination of Linda Hunter, singing a specially prepared and particularly apposite anthem – A Prayer of St Columba, by Richard Shepherd at her first Celebration of Holy Communion.

John Ross had been associated with the music of St Andrew's since the early 1970's and until his retirement held the shared post of Organist from 2013. In September the choir sang a special evensong tribute to John, and on the following day a service of celebration, featuring some of John's favourite organ and choral music, including the Nunc Dimittis by Geoffrey Burgon, Charles Parry's 'Crossing the Bar', the Nunc Dimittis in B Minor by Tertius Noble and Psalm 121 to a setting by H Walford Davies.

One of the highpoints of the choral year is the Advent procession, a dramatic sequence from darkness to light beginning in a totally dark church and ending in a blaze of candlelight, accompanied by Advent music both new and old.

And then, Christmas. For a change, the weather remained dry for Carols for All in the churchyard with the wonderful Hexham Brass. The Christmas Eve Carol Service was standing room only. I always try to introduce one new carol – this year it was 'The Cradle Hymn' by Norwegian Kim Arnesen, fast becoming one of the most frequently performed choral composers in Europe.

On Passion Sunday the choir presented a choral devotional service 'Behold the Man' featuring 6

individually distinctive anthems and motets, each responding to a particular aspect of the Passion Story. The music included the traditional: 'O Saviour of the World' by John Goss, 'Ex ore Innocentium' by John Ireland, 'O Vos Omnes' by Carlos Correa, and three anthems by contemporary composers: a setting by Howard Helvey of the well-known hymn 'Ah Holy Jesus,' 'A Crux Ave' by Rihards Dubra, and a setting of 'Stabat Mater' by Phillip Stopford sung as an unforgettable solo by our own Jennifer Lansberry.

In many ways this service of music characterises the choir's current repertoire spanning the years from the early 16th century to the present day; each piece with a unique musical character and a sentient and felt response to the text.

When you overlay these special services with the regular Festival services, licensing services for Revd Phil Smith and Revd Claire Robson, the civic Festival of Remembrance, and of course the musically-intense celebrations of Advent and Christmas, in retrospect I am astonished at how much we achieve together, entirely because of the hard work and commitment of each member of the choir.

It is not all serious application – at the beginning of the year we enjoyed a lovely meal together at the Golden Lion, and our regular attendance at this newly-managed hostelry after the Friday practice has earned us a reserved table.

We are indeed blessed at St Andrews with two organists, John Roper and Marc Bryant, who week after week patiently support the choir through rehearsals, as well as delighting congregations with their musical talent, both during services and summer organ recitals.

Nicki Swart provides secretarial support patiently checking on member's anticipated attendance, Liz Collins continues to manage the robes. Chistine Fenwick, Val Barnes and others assist with keeping the music library in order. The choir is continually encouraged by David Kennedy who despite the claims on his time joins us whenever he can. We greatly appreciate his enthusiasm and support and not least, his bass voice. To all: a very big thank you.

A final comment: I share a dream with all parish church choir directors of having as many tenors and basses to match the sopranos and altos in the choir – I end with this hint (and invitation).

Treasurer: Sheila Neilson

Social Secretary: Claire Hay

Minute Secretary: Rosemary Rayfield **Programme Secretaries:** Liz Buckley & Yvonne Piper

Committee Members: Janet Kennedy, Elsie Fletcher, (the late) Daphne Anderson

We now have 52 members. The first half of the year we continued to meet in St. Andrew's, in the afternoon which we commenced after covid. This has given us the opportunity to chat over refreshments, after our talk. The committee have continued to meet regularly through the year to continue talking about the monthly arrangements and plan the programme.

After our AGM last year, we began our programme in February with a change of speaker, when Penny Eley stepped in at the last minute to talk to us about Medieval Costumes. This was most interesting and also involved some modelling from a couple of our members.

Our Lent service took the theme of symbols for the journey – our readings were based round; Palm branch, towel and basin, bread and wine, the money bag and the crown of thorns and purple robe. This provided us with some time and space before Easter. Members of fellowship led readings and took participated in the service.

Our next monthly speaker, Roy Dallison gave a fascinating talk about the Leather Tanning Industry and how Hexham became renowned for its various leather related trades. We heard about how the leather industry grew through the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, becoming renowned for its gloves known as the Hexham tans. He explained that some of the leather-working remains can be seen in the Cockshaw area of the town today.

In May the Vicar came to share with us his vast knowledge on the northern saints – he took us on a historic trail through the ancient kingdom of Northumbria bringing alive the time line Aidan, Oswald, Cuthbert, Hild and Bede through a range of key Christian artefacts and where they may be seen.

June saw us at Shepherd's Dene for a talk and afternoon tea.

In September we took the step of moving to the Community Hub for our meetings and this has proved very successful. It is warmer, easier to manage for refreshments and has a speaker system.

Bruce Howarth from the Hextol Foundation came to talk to us. The foundation plays an essential part in providing working opportunities for people with learning disabilities and mental health conditions. There are a wide range of areas in which the Foundation operates – The Tans vegetarian restaurant in back street in Hexham, outside catering, gardening - garden maintenance and design and

landscaping. A packing service when the packing teams are commissioned by companies and organisations from all across the North East to assemble and distribute their newsletters, promotional mailings and product packs. We were all amazed at the range of opportunities open to those who were part of this service.

We had an entertaining afternoon in October when Geoff Millar the former Dean of Newcastle Cathedral came to talk to us about the book he had written for the Cathedral – a treasure Chest of stories. His talk was full of anecdotes and inspired many to think about a revisit of the Cathedral.

A visit by Natalie from the yoga studio was just what we needed in November in the hectic run up to Christmas. Learning how to breath properly and how to relax was very beneficial.

We rounded the year off with our Advent service, the theme this year was Light and Darkness this was an opportunity for us to have some quiet reflective time amidst that Christmas hustle and bustle. Of course, we finished off the afternoon with more mince pies and tea.

If you would like to try out Women’s Fellowship, do come along you would be most welcome.

OUTREACH

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION

Simon Hunter

www.corbridgechurch.org.uk

This year St Andrew’s Church website was redesigned and launched successfully in September. The website contains a wide range of information on St Andrew’s Church services, events and groups.

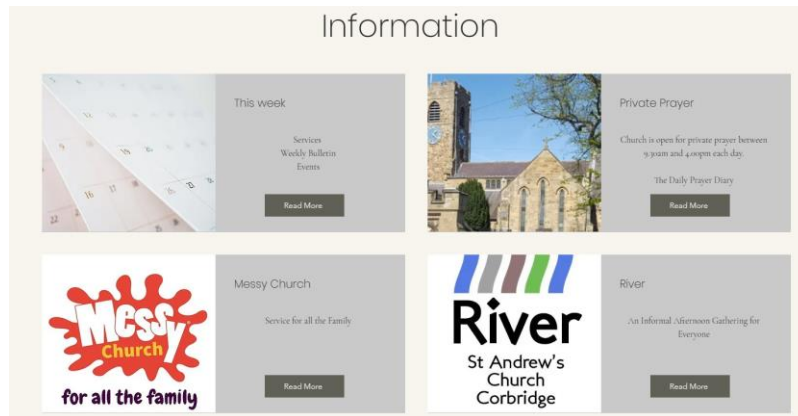


Smart phone



Desktop Computer

The website has been designed so that it can be used with ease on Smart phones, Mobile devices, and Desktop computers.



The design is more graphical which means it is easier for you to find and navigate to the different pages of information, each page has the same style of graphics.

Since the launch we have seen an increase in the number visitors to the website with over 5000 unique visitors. With returning visitors accessing the website each week making the **This Week** page the most popular because of its weekly information.

Weekly Email

Each week we have over 350 households receiving the St Andrew's church weekly email. This keeps readers up to date with information for the forthcoming week and it also provides a link to the THIS WEEK page on the Church website which gives access to the bulletin, reflection, orders of services and other relevant information.

This information can also be accessed via the Church website directly.

Social Media

- **Facebook:** We have three Facebook pages: Corbridge Church, Corbridge Church Families and St. Andrew's Church Christmas Tree Festival.
- **X (twitter) account:** Corbridge Church tweets @CorbridgeChurc1

We would welcome contributions for the News and Events section which can be emailed to corbridgechurchwebsite@btinternet.com

(Paper copies of Bulletin and Booklets are available in church to members of the congregation who don't have access to the internet)

Corbridge Deanery Synod meets 3 times a year to discuss various relevant topics and the Deanery Development group meets more frequently. This is principally a group reflecting on, and suggesting ideas, to take forward the development of the mission and ministry of the Deanery. The decision-making body is the Synod.

July Synod: Generous Giving team: Dennis Fancett and Leanne Conway-Wilcox.

Their presentation covered the following areas:

- Why we might not want to talk about giving?
- Parish Annual Giving Review - Parish Giving Scheme
- Legacies
- Contactless
- Generosity week - September

November Synod: The main topic of the evening was an opportunity for parishes to share, 'What we are celebrating'. **Our Challenges.** This was recorded with PowerPoint slides

February Synod: The Revd Stephen Tranter Diocesan Director of Ordinands and Vocations

Stephen started in the Diocese in September and is beginning now to find out what is happening across the Diocese. His talk covered the following points.

1. What would a well-resourced deanery look like?
2. What would a mixed ecology of ministry look like?
3. Where do we start from? How do we get there.?
4. How is it that people come to find faith?
5. We need to be proactive and encouraging in our parishes and across our deanery.
6. Where are your deanery gaps? How do we get there? What will people what are the current vocations, strengths, weaknesses in our benefice / deanery?

We have continued to develop our working groups which look at various aspects of the mission and ministry of the Deanery, these are: Shared Ministry and Getting to Know each other, Simplification Management – Use of Skills, Eco church, Communication.

All Deaneries have been asked to produce a Deanery Plan on a standard proforma so a considerable amount of time has been spent engaging with this information from the Diocese in order to compile our plan using the Diocesan toolkit. Thank you to Alice Stephenson and Janet Kennedy for being our representatives.

EVENTS & FUNDRAISING

MUSICAL EVENTS

Revd Linda E. Hunter and Jean Wilks

A small team comprising ourselves, Marc Bryant, Mary Oswell, Coleen Petrie, Nicki Swart, Jenny Watson and Gail Williams meet regularly to plan the musical events for St. Andrew's. It has been a really good year for concerts. St Andrew's is a wonderful venue, with a great ambience and good acoustics, so musicians love performing here, and we love hosting and working with them. Some hire the building and manage the concert themselves, and some work jointly with us so that some or all of the profits come to St Andrews. We especially enjoy hosting our seasons of Friday lunchtime music, which have brought some real treats!

These were the concerts we hosted in **April 2023 – March 2024:**

April 2 nd	Bishop's Consort: St John Passion, Bach
April 21 st	Lunchtime organ music: Michael Haynes
May 12 th	Lunchtime organ music: Kris Thomsett
May 23 rd	Khrystyna and Sasha – piano and violin
May 26 th	Bode Cathedral Choir (Norway)
June 16 th	Lunchtime organ and vocal music: J&M duo
July 28 th -30 th	Chamber Music Festival
July 31 st	Khrystyna and Cristo: two pianos
August/Sept	Friday lunchtime music, incl. Marygate Singers, Ewan Goodwin (organ), Deborah Thorne, Alison Gill, Sarah Roberts (violin), Cristo Harijan, and the St Andrews organists
Oct 14 th	Choral concert for Tynedale Hospice at Home
Oct 28 th	Noxwoode Ensemble Baroque
Nov 11 th	Antiphon
Nov 18 th	Ryton Choral Society
Nov 25 th	Landermason and Dark Sky Voices
Dec 9 th	Singing workshop: Fiona Lander
March 2 nd	Gould Piano Trio and Robert Plane

OTHER EVENTS

April 29 th	Spring fete
May 5 th	Village Bake-off
July 10 th -14 th	Art Society Exhibition
Sep 23 rd	Church Harvest Supper in the new CCP Hub

- Nov 4th Autumn Market
- Dec 1st-6th **Christmas Tree Festival:** As usual there were many innovative ideas interpreted in a range of ways, it was a delight to walk round and see them all. This year we had 90 trees, over 7,000 visitors and raised a total of £ 9,957.00 which with gift aid will be well over £10,000. This was a fantastic result.
- Dec 16th Church Christmas Party in the new CCP Hub
- Jan 17th Author event by Forum Books with Mairi Hannah
- Feb 13th Pancakes and Quiz evening in the new CCP Hub, organised by Pauline and Susan Bennett.



King's Coronation Celebrations

FUNDRAISING:

Thanks to Suzette and Warwick Milne for arranging the Grand Draw which brought in over £1,000.

If you would like to be involved in helping with any of our events, or have some suggestions of others that we may have, do let us know.

The flower arranging Team have continued to develop with a busy and varied year given the many diverse aspects and nature of the work undertaken at St. Andrew's Church.

Progress and Developments

I am very pleased to report that we have some new members joining our flower arranging team.

With this in mind we are looking to start a rota later in the year.

We still need to keep building the group and so anyone who is interested in joining the flower arranging team would be most welcome. Please contact Ann Prudhoe on mobile 07483 855385 or home 01434 632971

We wish to thank all people who have donated money for flowers for Christmas and Easter and anyone who would like to be involved with the flower arranging team are invited to contact Ann Prudhoe.



**THE FEDERATION OF BROOMHAUGH AND CORBRIDGE CHURCH OF ENGLAND (VA)
FIRST SCHOOL**

Suz Hart, Executive Head Teacher

At Corbridge Church of England First School, we have the Christian values of respect, forgiveness, truth, thankfulness and kindness guiding us in all we do, helping us to be courageous advocates who make a difference in our local community and the wider world.

‘Let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.’ 1 John 3:18

Through high expectations and encouragement, we empower our children to believe in themselves and be the best they can be!

School Information

Number of children on roll: 142	% SEND pupils: 14.8%
Age range of pupils: 4-9 years	% of disadvantaged pupils: 14.8%

Key Developments (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Education)

The whole school ethos, and promotion of personal development, are enhanced through collective worship, RE, the work of the playground buddies, the work of the School Council and the work of the Eco Council. Picture News is used in whole school worship to discuss current affairs; pupils can access the content at a suitable level. The use of Picture News encourages discussion and debate through links to current affairs. Pupils are encouraged to talk about things happening in the world right now, becoming courageous advocates for change. Staff look at how the Bible can be linked to Picture News. The worship schedule is on the school website so that parents can use links from Picture News at home and know what has been discussed in school.

Children have accessed further, special assemblies such as a virtual session on the Protected Characteristics for KS2, a local author, an online safety speaker and a visit from the football Premier League trophy. A PSHE enrichment calendar has been created for the year across the Federation; it includes, for example, global goals week, black history month, Christianity projects, STEM, Remembrance Day and LGBT History Month. There is a strong focus on the purpose of the days and why the school takes part. Kema Kay – rapper and actor – came to speak to both schools about the racist bullying he experienced and complete a forum theatre workshop with the children on bullying. Tuesday assembly is usually led by either David, Sam, Linda or Marie.

On Wednesday 28th February we held our annual Rainbow Day where we celebrate equality, diversity and inclusion. This year, we celebrated neurodiversity and making links to mental health and wellbeing. Very simply, neurodiversity refers to the different ways a person's brain processes information. Those who are neurodivergent make up a large percentage of our society and school communities. Research from the NHS states that up to 1 in 7 people in the U.K may be neurodiverse. Neurodiversity includes those with dyslexia, ASD, ADHD, OCD, Developmental coordination disorder (dyspraxia), dyscalculia, stammering and Tourette's Syndrome. Throughout the day, we shared books linked to neurodiversity and took part in wellbeing activities as well as having an assembly led by the Northumberland A.S.D team about different types of neurodiversity. As we did last year, we invited children to come dressed in different colours of the rainbow. We are all unique like each colour of the rainbow and we believe we should always celebrate our differences!

Every day, every class chooses someone to be a special person. The special person hears positive affirmations from their peers and provides their own self-affirmations; some pupils can initially find this difficult to do, however self-esteem is boosted as a result. The work also supports oracy and language development. The SENDCo works closely with a number of external partners to promote positive emotional wellbeing and mental health in school; she has put in place a range of strategies to support pupils and parents. The SENDCo is a highly skilled practitioner who has a sharp focus on achieving the best outcomes for all pupils. NDAS (Northumberland Domestic Abuse Service) has delivered a block of PSHE workshops to Years 3 and 4 about healthy relationships, self-esteem, confidence and consent.

Extra-curricular provision

A wide range of lunchtime and after-school clubs are on offer and boast strong numbers. Provision is always inclusive and funded places are available, so no-one misses out. Attendance is monitored. A proportional representation audit has been completed to ascertain number of Pupil Premium and SEND children accessing clubs and whether this is in line with Pupil Premium and SEND percentages in school. We currently offer choir, calm club, sensory club, gymnastics, sports, orienteering and history, to name just a few! All of the children's interests are celebrated and developed in school.

Behaviour Policy Changes

We are proud to take a relational approach to behaviour management. At Corbridge CofE First School, we feel that positive relationships are the root of positive behaviour and attitudes to learning and we all have a part to play in building that positive foundation. Our approach reflects the 5 core Christian values that underpin everything we do in school. We serve to provide a Christian school

community in which our children can feel secure and happy and thrive, both emotionally and academically, on a daily basis.

The Corbridge CofE First School Code outlines what children and adults will do in our school. They are very much a statement of, 'How we do things here.' New policies and documents have been shared with the wider school community and are available on the schools' websites.

STEM Fortnight

Corbridge CofE First School's STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) fortnight took place 5th-15th February 2024 and managed to go beyond last year's excitement levels and enthusiasm! Our ongoing aim is to inspire the children into STEM based interests through activities and workshops during the fortnight. Each class had a packed timetable with events, ambassador visits (where we invited parents and family members with STEM careers into school to talk to the children), workshops and more. We were even visited by some familiar characters from Star Wars, which was so exciting!

The children were all invited to dress up on the first and last days to start and end it with a bang. These costumes either reflected their class theme or were STEM based. The fortnight finished with an 'Open Afternoon' on Thursday 15th February, where the children acted as STEM experts and explained what they had learnt and achieved to all of our visitors.

All of the children were so enthused by their learning, smashed stereotypes about what people who work in STEM careers look like and saw the amazing opportunities each of their futures could hold.

Out and About!

EYFS and KS1 visited Northern Stage to see The Three Bears at Christmas time. Our music lead, Mrs. Richardson, attended Royal Opera House training through NCC and booked places at a singing event for The Magic Flute for the choir, where they sang songs from the opera, accompanied by a full orchestra and professional singers. Our EYFS children spent the day at Hall Hill Farm in April, our Year 3 children will soon be visiting Vindolanda and the Roman Army Museum and Year 4 will be spending the day at Beamish, in addition to their residential trip to Dukeshousewood. We have also established an annual beach trip, which will take place this year in July. Our many trips have been made possible by the support of Consett Rotary and their 'Kids Out' programme, which we are extremely grateful for.

Accounts

**The Parish of St. Andrew's Corbridge with St. Oswald, Halton
and Newton Hall**



**ANNUAL REPORT
for year ending
31st March 2023**

Incumbent

Canon Dr David J Kennedy

Bank

Lloyds Bank, Priestpopple, Hexham. NE46 1PA

Barclays Bank, Priestpopple, Hexham. NE46 1PA



Parish of Corbridge with Halton and Newton Hall Our Parish Mission Statement

Sharing the length and breadth of the love of Jesus

We are a community of Christians, committed to serve the Living God we know in Jesus Christ. Along with every Church in the Diocese of Newcastle we strive to grow the Church and bring hope

- through worship and prayer that is engaged and holy
- in living out and sharing the Gospel by word and deed
- through reaching out to the entire community by caring for all
- by seeking to grow in faith as Christian disciples
- by welcoming visitors into our buildings and our Church life
- by working in partnership with other Christians in our parish, deanery and diocese

To this end

- our doors are open
- our minds are open
- our hearts are open

Inspired by the example of St Andrew, we strive to bring children, teenagers and adults to Jesus.

July 2019

ANNUAL REPORTS

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MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL CHURCH AND ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETINGS HELD IN ST ANDREW'S CHURCH 11.20am, SUNDAY 15th MAY 2022

PRESENT

Canon David Kennedy (Chair), Revd Lynn Caudwell, Revd Sam Lochhead and 37 laity.

APOLOGIES

Michael & Sheila Priestley, Maureen Davison, David & Margaret Preece, Suzette & Warwick Milne.

MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

David Kennedy explained this first of the two meetings was for the election of two Churchwardens, for which anyone voting must be either resident on the parish or on the electoral register. The two present Churchwardens had both been nominated to stand again and their election was agreed unanimously:

- Jean Wilks, proposed by Gail Williams, seconded by Nicola Swart
- Sue Graves, proposed by Nicola Swart, seconded by Gail Williams

MINUTES OF ANNUAL PAROCHIAL MEETING

Acceptance was proposed by Ian Graves, seconded by Janet Kennedy, agreed unanimously, and signed by David Kennedy. There were no matters arising.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Cliff Wright spoke to the report and accounts. He expressed sincere thanks to all those who help and highlighted the main features over the year:

- Personal giving increased by around 20% on 2020.
- Strong recovery in net income received from fundraising activities notably the Christmas Tree Festival, Donations and Parish Fees with improvements over the previous year of £11,800, £7,600 and £2,200 respectively.
- Improvement of £8,100 in the value of our Charifund investment, although future fluctuations can be expected.
- The major Organ Refurbishment project, together with the much smaller clock winding project were satisfactorily concluded with both jobs mostly funded by special appeal, grants and gift aid.
- The introduction of broadband into the church and a robust card reader has already demonstrated material benefits and is essential to future financing as the use of cash falls away.
- At the end of the year we had reserves of £209,000 which is virtually uncommitted. However, this includes, a legacy of £66,000 which has been earmarked for work required on St Andrews Cottage.

Overall financial results for 2021 provided a happy contrast to the year before, and are undoubtedly underpinned by the generosity of parishioners. However these are extraordinary difficult and challenging times and complacency for the future would be a mistake. There are significant

upcoming calls on our reserves as we meet the demands of the Quinquennial reports on both St Andrew's and Halton and importantly also in meeting the demands of our mission and ministry. David expressed huge appreciation to Cliff for the extraordinary amount of time work that he invests in managing our finances and accounting, with good cheer and fortitude. It was proposed by Alice Bryant, seconded by Gail Williams, and agreed unanimously that the Financial Report be accepted.

REPORTS

David thanked everyone who contributed to and compiled the Annual Report booklet. Linda read out the Deanery Synod report which would now be added to the written annual report; she said work had been ongoing throughout the year in preparing a new Deanery Plan, looking to work more closely together utilising skills and resources, rather than working as individual parishes.

David also expressed appreciation to everyone who gave generously of their time and effort in supporting the work of the church – although much of the work goes unseen he was grateful to all who contribute to the spiritual health and wellbeing of our community, demonstrating a happy and healthy collaboration.

He especially thanked Linda Hunter for acting as administrator to the parish. He hoped that the new PCC would agree to the appointment of a Parish Administrator to take over this role, to free more of Linda's time for ministry following her ordination in July.

Acceptance of all reports was proposed by Marc Bryant, seconded by Brenda Ford, and agreed unanimously.

ELECTIONS

With the retirement of Ian Graves, Jon Williams, Kate Jenkins and David Preece from the PCC, there were now four vacancies on PCC. Two nominations had been received and their election was agreed unanimously:

- Alice Bryant, proposed by Liz Buckley and seconded by Jean Wilks
- Nahida Remy, proposed by Linda Hunter and seconded by Sue Graves

Two further vacancies remained, and anyone interested in standing was encouraged to speak with the Vicar. Standing committee members would be confirmed at the PCC meeting to be held in June. There was one vacancy for a representative on the Deanery Synod; again, anyone interested in standing was encouraged to speak with the Vicar.

APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Cliff Wright reported that Mike Collins is happy to remain as independent examiner. Acceptance proposed by Alice Bryant, seconded by Linda Hunter and agreed unanimously.

AOB

Linda Hunter thanked David Kennedy, on behalf of all present, for his leadership and support throughout the year.

There being no further business, the meeting closed in prayer.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC) 2022 – 2023

Churchwardens Jean Wilks Sue Graves

PCC Elected Members

2020 - 2023

Anne King-Lewis David McEwan Edward Pybus

2021 – 2024

Val Barnes Jo Eldridge

2022 - 2025

Alice Bryant Nahidah Remy John Wilson

Deanery Synod

Max Philbrick Monica Philbrick Alice Bryant



INTRODUCTION: STRIDING AHEAD

Last year, when I wrote my Annual Report, I gave it the title – ‘3 steps forward, 2 steps back’ to reflect the start-stop year of 2021-2022 when Covid-19 still had a major impact on Church life. So, it has been great to see normal Church life gradually restored over the past twelve months. Indeed, this has been a fertile period in the life of our Parish with a significant number of new people joining our congregation and some exciting new initiatives and developments in our ministry as a Church. Now is the time to press on, and continue to develop our mission and ministry, trusting in the Lord of the harvest that he will give the increase. Many new members of St Andrew's have commented positively about the welcome they have received, and the sense of community and positiveness in our Church life and the variety of what we offer in our Church programme over the course of the year. I hope and pray that this may continue, not least as we look forward to our 1350th Anniversary year beginning in October 2024. This gives us a once-in-a-generation opportunity to celebrate the faith we profess and the spiritual heritage to which we are heirs, and the remarkable continuity of faith, worship and witness in Corbridge over the many centuries of Church life here.

WORSHIP

It has been wonderful to see the congregation gradually build up over the year, with average Sunday attendance now well over 100 for services at St Andrew's and healthy numbers at Halton. Also, the Wednesday morning mid-week communion now attracts up to 20 worshippers each week. *River*, our monthly informal and inter-active gathering is now well-established as a key part of our worshipping life, attracting up to 30 people, including those new to our church. Messy Church is now really building up again – recent meetings have attracted about 18 children and on Good Friday we had 38 children present. I'm delighted for our highly committed team because for much of 2022, numbers were discouragingly low. This is a reminder to keep praying and persevere, until growth comes and we trust that this will continue.

The music of our Church is developing. The new hymnbook has enabled us to introduce new hymns and songs. It has been great to see new members joining the choir, especially sopranos and altos and some new men (although we need more). But the quality of the music the choir brings us is evident for all to hear and the choir itself is a very committed mutually supportive group. Similarly, we are grateful for the music of *River*, led by Paul Morris with his excellent guitar playing and leadership. We were grateful to Simon Caudwell for his piano playing and we miss him, but I'm delighted that Jenny Watson and Nicki Swart have brought their skills as pianists to *River*.

During the past year we have continued to explore the ministry of healing, focussing on inner healing with prayer and the laying on of hands and anointing, and a further healing service will be held in July. Compline and Address is now a firmly established aspect of our Advent, Lent and Holy Week worship. This year we have explored ‘the 4 last things’ (death, judgment, heaven and hell) in Advent, the writings of Thomas Traherne in Lent, and the aspects of the passion narrative – the cup, the darkness, the veil and the earthquake, in Holy Week.

It was a delight to see a packed Church on Christmas Eve for the Crib Service (242 people) and Festival of Lessons and Carols (367, with standing room only), with 221 attending worship on Christmas Morning. Our Holy Week and Easter worship was very well attended, with 266 people at worship on Easter Day.

This past year has been a most poignant and significant year for the Monarchy. In June we celebrated the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee with a memorable Civic Service and celebration including a magnificent rendering of Handel's *Zadok the Priest* by our augmented choir. In September, the Queen's death saw St Andrew's as a hub of corporate remembrance with many people coming into Church to light candles and sign the book of condolences. We re-ordered our worship to mark this most significant moment in our history with a Requiem Eucharist on the first Sunday and a very well attended Civic Service on the second Sunday during the period of national mourning. And of course, we have recently celebrated the King's Coronation with another Civic Service where *Zadok* appeared again, followed by a shared lunch – street party-style!

We have been delighted to restore our ministry to Charlotte Straker House, Burnbrae Lodge, Riverhill, Abbeyfield and Primlea Court. The congregation of Corbridge Methodist Church now worships in St Andrew's twice a month. Once again, we celebrated the Covenant Service together in January and shared in Easter worship together. It is great that the Revd Marie Beard is so much a part of our shared ministerial team.



PEOPLE

The great highlight of last year was Linda Hunter's ordination as Deacon by Bishop Mark at the Cathedral. A bus-full of members of St Andrew's attended the service and we had a joyful celebration of Linda's new ministry on the Sunday morning following with another show-stopping cake made by Lynn Ward. Linda moved seamlessly from her ministry as a Reader to her ordained ministry and has firmly established herself in both Church and Community in this public and representative role. She has also initiated a real advance in our pastoral ministry with the new pastoral visiting hub and the establishment of Tea and Chat as part of our outreach to members of the community who value the opportunity to meet together for company and support. We look forward to Linda's ordination as priest on 1 July and her first presidency of the Eucharist on Wednesday 5 July at 7.30pm when the preacher will be Bishop Dagmar Winter.



In February we bade farewell to Lynn and Simon Caudwell on Lynn's appointment as Priest-in-Charge of St Christopher's, Pott Shrigley, in the Diocese of Chester. Lynn presided and preached at her final service followed by speeches, presentations and an excellent shared lunch. We give thanks for Lynn's ministry over four years here at Corbridge and a group of us were delighted to be present at her Licensing, many more watching the service on-line.

We were delighted to welcome David McEwan as our new churchwarden, working alongside Jean Wilks, and David has assumed his new duties with energy and positivity. We are blessed to have two such dedicated and talented wardens. Sam Lohead completes three years with us as Curate in July, and so will soon begin in his fourth year the process of discerning where God will call him as in the next stage of his ministry. We look forward to welcoming the Revd Phil Smith as non-stipendiary Associate Priest of Corbridge. Phil will be licensed by Bishop Mark on Monday 19 June at 7.30pm. We were delighted to welcome Anastasia Moskvina, an ordinand training for the ministry at Cranmer Hall, Durham, on a six-month placement from October to Easter. Ana made a great impact through her friendliness, preaching and leading, and it was a particular joy to hear her sing the Easter Proclamation, the *Exsultet*, at the Easter morning Dawn Service. For those who were there, it was unforgettable. We are fortunate to have such talented and complementary ministers in the life of our Church. Jennifer Wright has continued her role as Pastoral Assistant, and in

September, Fiona Warin began training as our second Pastoral Assistant. We look forward to Fiona's commissioning in due course, but this further strengthens the development of quality pastoral care in this parish. In January, Lorna Petrie began as our new Part-time Parish Administrator, working 10 hours a week in the Parish Office. This is a vital development of our parish administration, freeing Linda Hunter who exercised the role with absolute diligence over many years, but is now exercising a people-centred role as an ordained minister. Lorna has made a great start and is getting to grips with the complexity of parish life in this busy benefice. Ann Prudhoe has succeeded Sheila Goldsworthy as our Flower co-ordinator (although Sheila continues as part of the team); we are enormously grateful for the years of service Sheila has given. Lynn Davidge resigned as part-time cleaner and we have just appointed Charlotte Alexandra to succeed her. We were saddened by the death of a number of worshipping members of our Church community over the recent year, notably former Church Treasurer Jack Dalton, Margaret Telfer, Rena Adamson and Ron Gold, loved and valued members of our Church family. A Memorial Service was held for Beccy Graves, daughter of Ian and Sue, and there will be a forth-coming memorial service for John Sykes, former Director of Music, in June.

MISSION AND MINISTRY

The BBC *Songs of Praise* programme, part of which was recorded in St Andrew's, was duly broadcast in May and we were delighted to welcome the Revd Kate Botley to St Andrew's where her fun and humour were infectious.





We continue to seek to grow in our knowledge of the faith. We have had special sermon series on 1 Peter (using the Archbishop of Canterbury's *Thy Kingdom Come* material), inner healing, and a recent Eastertide series preaching through 1 Corinthians 15. A 5-session teaching series on the Creed was offered on Zoom in the autumn and 3 sessions on our Christian responsibility for the environment, led by Richard Adams, in the early part of 2023. In Lent, we held two well-attended sessions exploring the Letter to the Hebrews. Well-established groups such as the home group and Book Club have continued to enable engagement with our faith.

Prayer continues to be central. Through the generosity of a member of the congregation, we were able to provide *Try Praying* booklets inside and outside of St Andrew's and many were taken and we trust used. We also offered the novena prayer resources for *Thy Kingdom Come* between Ascension Day and Pentecost. Sam Lohead continued to lead sessions on contemplative prayer, and the Thursday prayer group has met weekly. Morning and Evening prayer are said daily in Church. On the run-up to the Coronation, the Church of England special commemorative daily prayer books were distributed.

We continue fully to support Corbridge Church of England First School. During the year we bade farewell to Jen Ainsley our excellent Head Teacher and welcomed Suz Hart as her successor as Executive Head of Corbridge and Broomhaugh Church Schools. The ministry team lead weekly assemblies and Harvest, Christmas, Easter and End of Year services are celebrated in Church. This autumn we were delighted to welcome parents and families to the School Services once again after Covid restrictions. Linda Hunter continues to lead regular assemblies and services at Mowden Hall School and Sam Lohead has re-established our links with Corbridge Middle School, leading some assemblies each term.

We continue to seek to engage positively with the wider community. Linda Hunter and myself are Trustees of the recently-formed Corbridge Community Partnership and St Andrew's is thus a partner in seeking to develop the new Community Hub in the former Methodist Chapel in Princes Street. David Waugh, Ian Wylie and Sean Cutler (from the Pele Tower) are on our 1350 Committee. These initiatives, along with our links with the Traders' Group - Visit Corbridge, the Christmas Tree Festival, the new Pastoral hub, Tea and Chat, our schools ministry, and our significant ministry through occasional offices, ensures that St Andrew's is fully committed to serving the common good.

Many, many people contribute to the diverse life of our Church and I will make that a feature of what I say at the APCM.



THE DEANERY OF CORBRIDGE

I have continued as Area Dean and Linda has done a magnificent job as Deanery Secretary as we have responded to a diocesan process of devising a new Deanery Mission Action Plan. Part of this is a response to a reduction in stipendiary posts following consultation with Diocesan Synod and PCCs about what they can offer in Parish Share. As part of this, we are exploring whether Corbridge should also assume responsibility for the Parishes of Slaley and Healey following the forth-coming retirement of their Vicar, Helen Savage, in October. The PCC has had initial discussion of this and a formal consultation with the Archdeacon and Bishop's Staff will ensue.

CONCLUSION

As I look back over the year, and re-visit many memories in writing this Report, I feel an enormous sense of thanksgiving – to God, for his sustaining grace and the privilege of exploring this great and holy Faith, and to the many people who contribute to the life of St Andrew's and Halton. Of course, no Church, no Minister, no Christian, is perfect. There is the Church God desires and the Church we are prepared to give him. But the pandemic has taught me to count my blessings and, corporately, we have so many blessing for which our thanks and praise are due. A Church which places thanksgiving at its centre (and we do indeed celebrate the Eucharist – the Great Thanksgiving - each Sunday) will be a Church that is positive, giving and joyful. May we continue to grow in this grace and serve the Lord cheerfully and to his praise and glory.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

David



ELECTORAL ROLL

Maureen Davison

At the beginning of the year there were 160 names on the Electoral Roll. During this year 15 names have been added and there have been three names removed.

The current number on the Electoral Roll is 172.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT

Jean Wilks

MEMBERSHIP 2022-2023:

Members of the PCC are either ex officio, elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with Church Representation Rules, or co-opted by the PCC. During the year the following served as members of the PCC:

Ex officio:

Vicar: Canon David J Kennedy
Assistant Curate: Revd Lynn Caudwell
Assistant Curate: Revd Sam Lohead
Assistant Curate: Revd Linda E Hunter
Churchwardens: Sue Graves (until Nov. 2022), David McEwan (from Jan. 2023), Jean Wilks

Elected at APCM in May 2022:

Val Barnes	Edward Pybus	Jo Eldridge
Nahida Remy	Anne King Lewis	John Wilson
David McEwan		

Elected at APCM, and representatives on the Deanery Synod:

Max Philbrick, Monica Philbrick, Alice Bryant

Co-opted

Cliff Wright	Treasurer
Carol Moffatt	Minute Secretary

STANDING COMMITTEE

It is a requirement by law that a Standing Committee is appointed. It sets the agenda for the PCC meeting and deals with business in between meetings.

Members: Vicar, Assistant Curates, Churchwardens, Treasurer.

WELCOMES AND FAREWELLS

We welcomed three new PCC members in May 2022: Alice Bryant, Nahida Remy and John Wilson. We thank them for joining us and for all that they will bring to the PCC.

Four PCC members stood down at the 2022 APCM: Ian Graves, Kate Jenkins, David Preece and Jon Williams. Also, Sue Graves resigned as PCC member and churchwarden in autumn 2022 due to increased family commitments. We thank them all for their many contributions and their hard work.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

Eight meetings of the PCC and eight of the Standing Committee were held during the last year, following the APCM on 15th May 2022. PCC has been very busy throughout the year with a range of topics discussed. More detail may be found elsewhere in this report, and in the Minute File at the back of church or on the website.

TOPICS COVERED

As well as our regular business, and one-off events covered elsewhere in this report, we have also discussed:

Mission statement: part of each PCC meeting is used to review a specific section of our mission statement

Welcome card: a card is being prepared and printed, and will be given to new Corbridge residents

Appointment of Parish Administrator

Corbridge Methodist Church: working together following closure of their building

Corbridge Community Partnership and Community Hub: opportunities for joint working

Plans for St Andrew's 1350 anniversary celebrations: a sub-committee is planning a range of exciting events and projects

Pastoral Visiting

Plans for the Coronation weekend



It has been a changeable year for the churchwardens. Due to increased family commitments, Sue Graves made the difficult decision to resign as churchwarden during summer/autumn 2022. David McEwan replaced her as churchwarden in January 2023.

Sue continues to work as Senior Sidesperson. We thank her, and all the volunteers who take their turn as sidespeople and on the coffee rota. We are so grateful for all that you do. This is a really important part of the church's Ministry of Welcome. It is also a great way of getting to know more people! If you haven't yet signed up to help, please do give it a try.

Thanks also to everyone involved in all the other tasks, rotas and committees which ensure that things run smoothly for all our different services and activities. There are far too many of you to mention by name, but we really do appreciate all your hard work.

As ever, we thank all our Ministry team for their tireless work and enthusiasm, and for being so inspiring to work with. We also thank their partners and families for supporting them in all the work that they do. This was an exciting year, which saw Linda's ordination as Deacon, and Lynn's move to pastures new at the end of her Curacy.

It has been good to be able to return to more normal routines as we emerged from the pandemic. Church services have at last been able to run without the rituals of advance bookings, socially-distanced seating and sanitising pews. We have had a full events programme, and all three of us have enjoyed taking an active role in running the tree festival, arts and craft exhibition, and a wide variety of concerts.

We found it especially rewarding acting as stewards in church following the death of the Queen. Many people visited, to sign the book of condolence, or light a candle, or just sit quietly. It was good to see how much they valued this, and the comfort they got from being here.

Both churchwardens are members of the PCC and Standing Committee, so we share in all decision-making about the work of our churches. We are also responsible for maintaining the church building and property, and addressing health and safety issues, and we are both active members of the Maintenance Committee. In particular, this year we have worked on commissioning our architect to conduct the quinquennial inspections of the cottage and of both Halton and St Andrew's churches, and on exciting plans for upgrading the cottage. And we oversee the work of our church cleaner. We have turned our hands to a wide variety of tasks when required, including odd jobs and repairs, locking/unlocking church, cleaning loos, clearing cobwebs, sorting out store cupboards, counting money, putting up banners in the churchyard, and stocking the bar for concerts!

Halton continues to flourish thanks in greatest part to the pastoral energy and care of Canon David Kennedy and Revds Lynn Caudwell (sadly no longer with us and we wish her all the very best in her new ministry at Pott Shrigley), Sam Lohead and Linda Hunter who make time in turns to come up the hill and conduct our services and preach. From the retired clergy Canon Michael Thompson stands in occasionally and is always most welcomed and most welcoming in equal measure. Our congregation comprises a core of 15 or so and there is a number of others who attend less frequently. Severally they contribute in many ways, in particular in maintaining the church building, arranging the flowers and tending the graveyard. We are deeply grateful to them all.

Regular services of Holy Communion have been held on the first Sunday of the month throughout the year (average attendance 12), including Harvest Thanksgiving in October, together with Easter (42) and Christmas (40). Additionally, David conducted Choral Evensong (40) on 26 June, members of the choir from St Andrew's performing some quite lovely music, Sam Evening Prayer (40) on 6 July at the conclusion of the Parish Pilgrimage Walk from Heaven Field to Halton, and David a further Evening Prayer (6) on 31 July.

In addition to providing a serene place of worship Halton also attracts many visitors. The number seems to increase year by year. Mainly walkers, some exploring Hadrian's Wall, they admire the matchless setting with its expansive view of the Tyne Valley and enjoy the peace and quiet. They are delighted to find the church building open and many write in the Visitors Book messages evidencing how they draw from their visit variously inspiration and hope, solace and spiritual support. One summarised it briefly: "A hidden gem. I'm so pleased my walk brought me here". A sentiment we can all share.



SAFEGUARDING

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Mandy Norton Tel: 01434 632585
Safer Recruitment Officer: Richard Adams Tel: 01434 634869
Asst PSO (Admin): Linda E Hunter Tel: 01434 633742

‘The Church of England is committed to the safeguarding, care and nurture of everyone within the church community so that all can flourish in faith and know the love of God.’ Here in St. Andrew’s and Halton we need to remember that we are all responsible for keeping each other safe. Mandy is always available to listen if you have any safeguarding concerns. She can also point you in right direction if you need any information or further support. Richard looks after the recruitment paperwork in particular the Volunteer forms and on-line DBS checks, new and renewals.

We have continued to use the National Church Dashboard in order to keep up to date with all that we need to do to ensure that our churches are safe places. We have consistently been at level 3 (highest level!) Safer recruitment is really important as we ensure that we recruit to roles safely and those who work with children or vulnerable adults have all the appropriate checks. All those involved in roles which require Safeguarding training have participated in the appropriate course for their role - Basic Awareness, Foundation or Leadership. In addition some people have received training in Domestic Violence Awareness and Safer Recruiting. Basic Awareness training is completed on line and anyone who wants to know more about Safeguarding can go on the Church of England website and register to complete this training.

Safeguarding is on the agenda of every PCC meeting and all PCC members are kept up to date current information.

Over the next few months we are going to be part of a pilot exploring how Safer Recruitment and DBS can link in with the dashboard.

Remember if you have any concerns please speak to Mandy or one of the clergy, or Carol Butler: Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser.

www.churchofengland.org/more/safeguarding for further information.



The fabric of both our churches is in serviceable condition, and all goods and ornaments are as required for worship and events to take place in St. Andrew's and St. Oswald's.

Quinquennial Inspections: St Andrew's Cottage. As reported last year, the inspection completed in 2021 revealed a substantial amount of work to be undertaken, especially control and elimination of damp, installation of under-floor heating, and a new kitchen. Our architect is preparing detailed specifications and tender documents.

Halton Church: The inspection was completed in 2022. Recommendations to be followed up this year include repairing the chest tomb, some work on the paths, and some minor repairs and maintenance inside the church. Some repointing is required by the end of next year. Discussions are in progress to implement these recommendations.

St Andrew's Church: The inspection should be done this year.

Maintenance and works undertaken: Statutory Requirements. During the year we have had inspections of the fire extinguishers, boilers, alarm system, and regular inspections of ladders. Electrical PAT testing was done in November 2022. The 5-yearly electrical inspections of St Andrew's church and the cottage were done in October 2022, and all recommended remedial work completed in February 2023. Halton's 5-yearly inspection is due in 2023.

Clock: The clock's annual inspection was done in October 2022. We are grateful to Mike Collins who checks, monitors and adjusts the clock when required. Fortunately, it no longer needs winding three times a week, thanks to the automated winding installed in 2021.

- **Roof.** Maintaining a watertight roof, as with all historic buildings, is an ongoing challenge. There have been some leaks in the north transept and the vicar's vestry; repairs are in hand.
- **Lighting.** All defective bulbs in the chandeliers and high-level lights were replaced in April 2022. More have failed since then, and plans are in hand to get them replaced.
- **Halton:** heaters. Repairs have been arranged for some faulty overhead heaters.
- **Cottage boiler.** A new gas boiler was fitted in August 2022, to replace the old one which was failing repeatedly.
- **Churchyard and garden.** We have a close working relationship with the Parish Council, which has responsibility for the churchyard, including grass cutting and safety of footpaths. In March 2023, a volunteer working party was organised to do an extra tidy-up. Special thanks are due to Warwick and Suzette Milne for their work in the cottage garden.

Utilities: contract renewals: New electrical contracts for St Andrew's, Halton and the cottage have been taken out as from May 2023. The cottage gas contract is fixed until 2024. St Andrew's gas contract runs until 2025.

Health & Safety: We are in the process of reviewing our fire safety risk assessments. Event risk assessments are carried out for all new events.

Security Review: We regularly monitor our security arrangements. If you have any church key and are no longer in the role for which it was issued, please return it to the churchwardens.

The Maintenance Committee: The committee meets regularly and reports to PCC. Members are Michael Rae, Jon Williams, Canon David Kennedy, Revd Linda Hunter, and both churchwardens. The committee is especially indebted to Michael and Jon, for all their wisdom, expertise and hard work. Jon has been designated Eco-Champion on the Maintenance Committee, to ensure that environmental concerns are taken on board in all discussion and decision-making.

Church Furnishings: Two beautiful new open ciboria, given by Lindsay Brooker in memory of her father David Ketley have adorned our Eucharistic worship. Also, the existing ciborium was fully refurbished by Reid and Sons of Newcastle and has been restored to use. Also, new altar cloths and altar linen were kindly given by Canon and Mrs Thompson.

Thank You

The fabric of our churches is well looked after, and we are extremely grateful to all those who contribute to this in any way, by giving their time, expertise or financial help. It is impossible to thank all those who play a part in this, as so many people are involved. We are always looking for more volunteers to take on maintenance tasks; if you could offer some help, please speak to the churchwardens.



MISSION AND MINISTRY

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES MESSY CHURCH

Louise Stubbs

Messy Church is now celebrating its thirteenth year and we have seen many positive changes throughout this last year. The Messy Church banner is displayed well in advance within the church grounds. It serves both as a reminder for our regular participants, but also encourages visiting families to join us. It is pleasing to note that families have visited us from further afield and returned! Our team has welcomed new members and we would encourage anyone who is interested, in helping, to come along and see what it would entail. It can be 'Messy' at times but is always a rewarding experience. We conduct planning / review meetings via Zoom but recently have resumed face to face meetings.

Canon David Kennedy, Revd. Lynn Caudwell, and Revd. Sam Lohead have regularly attended our planning meetings and Messy Church days, whenever they have been available. The team has been grateful for their involvement and support. (Revd. Sam's enthusiasm for clay activities hasn't gone unnoticed!) Revd. Linda Hunter has continued to lead the team and her efficiency, commitment and encouragement ensures we all stay on task during our planning and Messy Church days. Thank you Linda.

The Messy Church format has thankfully reverted back to pre-covid days, which allows 'face to face' communication and interaction with children/ adults in attendance. We begin with a game which we have found to be a successful approach as everyone can participate. This is usually linked to the story being presented. A video is often used to tell the story with input from Clergy or members of the team.

Max Philbrick operates all the technology involved with the laptop and screen. His input is greatly appreciated. Table top activities are now the norm and we always include a physical activity which could be something like a simple obstacle course. This form of activity has always been popular. The days conclude with a recap of the story, song and prayers. A 'help yourself buffet' has also been reinstated with tea and coffee provided for adults This has proved to be a great opportunity to sit and chat with parents and children. More recently Janet Morrison has, once again, agreed to prepare tea for us. It is served by members of the team. Janet retired from the team in 2019 and we are grateful for her renewed involvement. The teas are always excellent! Our attendance figures are increasing again. We have been delighted to welcome two Ukrainian families who now attend regularly.

Some of the themes we have addressed have included;

Good Friday /Easter activities, David and Goliath, Daniel in the Lion's Den, Noah's Ark, The Wise and Foolish Builders, The Great Escape, The Shepherd Boy who became King, Light of the World, The Greatest Journey, The Good Samaritan and The Parable of the Sower.

In conclusion, Messy Church could not continue without the unstinting support, enthusiasm, commitment and creativeness of our team. As in previous reports a special mention must go to Max Philbrick. He has continued to produce a colourful monthly flyer to publicise our days. The flyers are

distributed in school and are always available in church. Thank you Max. for all your skills in technology! We have been delighted to welcome Charlotte Paton and Mike Bewick to our team this year.

As always, our thoughts and prayers continue to be with all our Messy Church families and everyone who contributes, in any way, to Messy Church.



Used with permission

The 'Take 5' team (named after the 5 Marks of Mission) is responsible for:

- maintaining links with our external mission partners
- making recommendations to PCC about the distribution of charitable donations from the planned giving income, and
- encouraging engagement by the congregation with the '5 Marks' and with our current external mission partners.

This is done in line with our mission statement, and we support five projects that reflect the holistic nature of mission. The partners/projects we have supported through 2022-23 are:

- Phil and Sylvie Good working with the Church Mission Society in North Africa and Lebanon. They are retiring in summer 2023 and we will be looking to make links to new CMS 'Mission Partners'.
- Getachew and Gezashign Yohannes engaged in Bible Translation with Wycliffe Ethiopia, where they are based. Our support is earmarked for the education costs of their four children.
- Gap Supported Housing (which changed its name from StopGap during 2022) working with homeless and vulnerable adults, and based in Hexham.
- The Lighthouse Project, which has a vision to develop the building of St Michael's Church, Byker so that it remains a place of worship, and becomes a flexible and modern space for the community, especially young people. In early 2023, with an expectation of major grant funding being received for this work, we decided (with their agreement) to transfer our support to MINE, which runs the youth work with links to St Michael's.
- We have made progress toward St Andrew's and its people being more intentional stewards of God's creation in all aspects of church and personal life, and achieving the A Rocha Eco Church Bronze Award.
- Team members during the year were Revd Lynn Caudwell (Chair until she left the parish), Revd Sam Lohead, Richard Adams, Anne King- Lewis, Max & Monica Philbrick, Jennifer Wright and Malcolm & Fiona Warin. On Lynn's departure, Malcolm took on the role of Chair, with Revd David Kennedy joining the team.

The team planned to meet monthly, which – with some inevitable gaps – has been mostly achieved! Some key points to mention for the year include:

- Richard Adams preached at the 10am service on 23rd October 2022, drawing on the concepts of covenant, law, and repentance as he explored the challenge to us all of climate change. He followed this up with a series of three Zoom seminars around the same themes in February.
- We recommended to the PCC that we should not financially support A Rocha this year. Instead we contributed to Climate Stewards (a partner of A Rocha). They work in overseas programmes and our gift will offset our carbon footprint.

- Sam Lohead has established a working group (including a member of the Maintenance Committee) to plan for an Eco Festival in June.
- In June 2022 Andrew Sanders, CEO of Gap Supported Housing, spoke during the 10am service at St Andrew's. We are planning a visit to their main building in Spring/Summer 2023.
- As well as supporting our 5 Marks activities, we recommended to the PCC that a one-off donation should be made to Corbridge Youth Initiative, in need of extra funding.
- In early 2023, we revised the Take 5 Noticeboard, reducing the number of 'Marks' covered at one time, and changing the content to 'tell stories' of the projects and their beneficiaries. We have not been able to sustain changing the Board monthly, and still have concerns as to how many people are reading it.
- We included articles in two editions of the Parish News.



RIVER

Revd Sam Lohead

River has continued to grow in various ways over the last year. The average number of people gathering for River each month has steadily increased, as has the number involved in the music and leading worship. It has been wonderful to see the particular 'charism' of River as an informal and flexible time together develop, for example through regular discussion of important questions around our faith and how this is lived out in daily life. For example, in 2022 we considered a series of, 'Fruits of the Spirit', such as peace - where we felt it was particularly needed in the world and also how we find it in our own lives.

As River grows, so does the variety of contexts and forms of worship we explore through it. For example, over the last year River has taken place outside in the form of a summer afternoon picnic, and during Passiontide 2023 we held River for the first time in the former Methodist Chapel. By worshipping in these different spaces and places, River reminds us of the opportunity to encounter and worship God wherever we find ourselves, as well as through those who we sit with; get to know and learn from as we worship together.

River continues to be an important part of our life together at St Andrew's, allowing us to explore new approaches to prayer and worship; to learn new songs; and to welcome new faces into our community. River is open to all, both newcomers to church and those who have been a part of St Andrew's for years - if it sounds like something you would like to try, now is a great time to experience it for yourself.

ECO CHURCH

Revd Sam Lohead

Our commitment as a parish to care for God's creation has become an increasingly significant part of our work and prayer as a church. Alongside Take 5's continued support of A Rocha UK, we have had a series of sermons and talks reflecting on environmental themes.

We were very grateful in February 2023 that Richard Adams was willing to lead a wonderful series linking theological ideas such as covenant to our own responses to the climate crisis, both as a church and as individuals. These talks were held on Zoom, and prompted lively and engaging discussion after each one. The last of these talks, focusing particularly on practical suggestions around individual responses, was recorded - please speak to The Revd Sam Lohead if you missed these talks, but would like an idea of what was offered to us.

Additionally, the parish now has an established Eco Committee meeting regularly, as we continue to develop and expand our engagement with sustainability. This group reflects on both practical matters relating to the parish's environmental footprint (particularly looking at the Church of England's Net Zero Carbon target for 2030), as well as ideas about how to further engage the congregation and community in environmental discussion and action.

Linked to this, we continue to work towards our A Rocha Eco Church Bronze Award, which we hope to achieve in the coming year, and we excited to be planning an Eco Festival for the 22nd and 23rd of June 2023. This will include displays from local charities; community groups, and schools exploring all that is already taking place in and around Corbridge to help preserve the environment we share. It will also involve live music; activities for children; and a panel discussion exploring the overlap between local initiatives and the wider church's work to face both the challenges and opportunities of living sustainably. This event should prove a real highlight and hopefully act as a catalyst for further discussion and change within the life of the church - and perhaps even further afield!

There are further plans extending into the Autumn - more on this soon. In the meantime, if you would like to join our Eco Committee, or would like more information about helping put together our Eco Festival, please contact The Revd Sam Lohead.

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER

Revd Sam Lohead

The role of various forms of contemplative prayer continue to grow within the life of our community. Regular opportunities to gather and explore different forms of contemplative prayer continue to widen our understanding of what it means to dwell in God's presence.

For example, since the last APCM we have gathered together to consider how the writings of saints can inspire and refresh our prayer, particularly looking at poetry and writings by St Teresa of Avila and St John of the Cross.

We have continued to reflect on different ways of praying as well, usually by practising a new approach over an extended period of time. We spent three weeks looking at Imaginative Prayer, and another three weeks taking a further look at *Lectio Divina*. It was during the latter we welcomed our first guest to speak to us about contemplative prayer, as The Revd Ollie Dempsey visited from St George's Church in Jesmond to share an approach to 'living out' what God reveals to us as we prayerfully engage with Scripture.

Our parish practices of contemplative prayer have also begun to link with other areas of our shared life, such as in May 2022 when we looked at contemplative prayer's relationship to healing. This has been an invaluable way of bringing to God both our own needs and the needs of others; something which we then engaged with further when we practised 'contemplative interceding' - silently holding before God people and situations when we find ourselves lost for words.

This expansion of contemplative prayer into different parts of church life was also apparent in our developing practice of pilgrimage - we took ideas from contemplative prayer with us as we went to visit Durham Cathedral, taking time to meet God through its history and architecture.

In the coming year we hope this development will continue, with particular links between our contemplative prayer and our engagement as a church with mission. Watch this space!

BOOK GROUP

Jennifer Wright

The two book groups have amalgamated. We are now a group of seven meeting weekly in the cottage. We finished a book that we started with Lynn Caudwell entitled, "The Seven Deadly Sins of Women in Leadership". Now we are reading a book called Listen by Kathryn Mannix.

HOME GROUP

Anne King-Lewis, Max Philbrick

The Home Group continues to meet at the home of Max and Monica every Thursday afternoon at 4pm starting with a cup of tea and biscuits.

This past year we have had some good sessions using a variety of materials usually centred round a Bible passage. During Advent and then in Lent we have been using meditations by the Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell. We didn't finish them all before Easter, and enjoyed continuing on through into May.

Although someone leads the discussion, we all have the freedom to add our own thoughts. We find it is a very rewarding way of getting to know one another better. We always end with a time of prayer for needs of the church as well as our own. The group is open and welcoming to all. We also have Zoom turned on, and Lynn Stow who used to worship at St. Andrew's often joins us from Bath!!

Why don't you join us sometime!

PRAYER GROUP

Jennifer Wright

The prayer group is now meeting every Thursday afternoon in church. We continue to pray for current issues relevant to our lives here in Corbridge as well as those relating to the country and the rest of the world.

We pray for the work of the Ministry team and all of the groups working within our church including the regular church services, Messy Church, River service, book groups, home group, YouTube services etc. We also pray for people we know of who are unwell, or have asked for us to pray about their particular needs.

In addition, we remember those we have chosen to support financially through the "Take 5" initiative. This includes:

- Stop Gap - helping Hexham's homeless
- The Lighthouse Project- a church in Byker where they are working to make their church into a flexible modern space for the whole community to us, including a place of worship. Also the youth work of MINE (Mission Initiative North East) in the Baker area
- CMS (Church Mission Society) - for Phil and Sylvie Good in Lebanon
- Getachew and his family in his work as a Bible translator in Ethiopia
- The Eco Church programme involving St Andrew's in environmental issues and looking at ways we can get involved as a church. (See Church notice board for regular updates of Take Five projects). We are a small group and would welcome anyone who would like to join us for a relatively short time each week.



CHURCH MUSIC

Colin Williams Musical Director

In March last year we were hosting an edition of Songs Of Praise – little did we know that this would turn out to be a ‘superspreader event’ which decimated the choir and once again disrupted church life, including the cancellation of the planned performance of Stainer’s Crucifixion. It was therefore particularly satisfying this year to re-institute the Come and Sing performance of this classic setting of the Crucifixion story on Passion Sunday with an augmented choir and superb accompaniments by our organist John Roper and two guest soloists, Owain Bennett and John Hewitt.

The trials and tribulations of the Covid period are now in the distant past and the choir has rediscovered much of its repertoire and is currently thriving, encouraged by the arrival of several new members. Here are comments from three singers:

It was a bit daunting when I walked into my first rehearsal with the choir a week before Christmas 2022. I need not have worried. The friendly atmosphere made me feel most welcome. The choir is warm hearted, inclusive and laughter as well as singing is a feature.

Joining the choir is one of the best things I’ve done since moving to this area. Developing skills and the friendly social side of the choir make it worthwhile.

The friendship and singing as a member of the church choir has enriched my life.

As well as the regular anthems in the Parish Communion Services we have contributed to all the special Festivals, in particular the services of Healing; the Dedication Festival, the Remembrance Service featuring a setting of Pie Jesu by Kim Arneson and a hauntingly beautiful solo by Charlotte Collins, the Advent Procession and the Christmas Eve Festival of Carols.

Throughout the year we have enjoyed the musicianship of our two resident organists, and this is an opportunity to thank John and Marc for their patience in choir practices and their continued enthusiasm and contribution to the music of our Church. I write this just before the Coronation – an opportunity to sing some special music, including a new piece specially commissioned by the RSCM which will be sung by Parish Churches all over England on the Sunday Morning. Further ahead we have started rehearsing for Ascension Day, and in June we are looking forward to singing Evensong at Halton Church.

Nicki Swart has taken over the role of Choir Secretary and has quickly become an indispensable focus for all choir communications, not least keeping me up to date with anticipated attendances which is a crucial factor in planning the music.

Liz Collins continues to manage the robes, patiently ensuring that everyone including new members look their best. Each singer makes an essential contribution and it is a real privilege to lead such a committed and enthusiastic choir.



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Revd Linda E. Hunter

We have now been meeting in St. Andrew's for over a year and have found that meeting in the afternoon with the opportunity for chat after our talks, has been a good move. So, that will continue. We now have about 45 members.

Following our AGM last year we were supposed to have Adrian Langford talking about the work of a First responder unfortunately he caught covid so we were lucky to have Ian McLeod step in at last minute to talk to us about the changes in history over a period of 100 years 1921 to 2021. What a lot of changes there were, some for the good and some well..... In March Kathleen Wilson was unable to join us as she was unwell too. So we ended up having one of Sheila's fantastic quizzes. Our April Lent service took the theme of Palms to Stones when we recalled the events of Holy Week, members of fellowship led readings and took part. Sally Urwin the 'pint sized' farmer gave us a wonderful talk about her life as a farmer's wife. That was most interesting. We ended the year with more cake, conversation and tea.

We began again in September when Fiona Sample shared with us her experiences of chairing the Oswin Project and the various activities that were offered to help with the rehabilitation of prisoners in particular the Café no 16 in Newcastle Cathedral. Work with Refugees and his experiences over the years working and volunteering in this area was the topic of the talk given by Malcolm Warin. It was devastating to hear how many people were still struggling to remain in the UK, the legalities taking many years whilst people were 'stuck' in a system that wasn't really fit for purpose. We all took a trip down memory lane when Alex Clark spoke about familiar objects of the 30's, 40's and 50's. It was fascinating to see a range of memorabilia from our childhood. Our Advent service in December, based round the theme of Waiting for the gift of Christmas, was an opportunity for us to have some quiet reflective time amidst that Christmas hustle and bustle. Of course we finished off the afternoon with more mince pies and tea.

Rosemary Rayfield began as secretary in July 2006 and after almost 16 years in the role she has decided to step back but will remain on the committee, so a special thank you to Rosemary. Thank you to Sheila, Liz, Elsie, Janet and Daphne who have all helped to keep things running smoothly. And to Claire Hay who expertly co-ordinates the refreshments.

We always like to welcome new members so do come along and see what happens, we usually meet on the 4th Monday of the month in church at 2.30pm (unless there is a bank holiday!)

CHRISTMAS ANGEL YARN BOMBING

In the months preceding Christmas many knitting needles and crochet hooks in the village and further afield were clicking away. Angels were being created – knitted or crocheted, each angel different as the patterns were interpreted in a range of ways, each individual. The angels came together on a tree at the tree festival – it was laden with angels. Then on a dull Monday afternoon in December the angels gathered together in church along with their creators. A short service of blessing was held. That evening a group of people set off in the dark to hang angels in as many different places as possible to surprise people in the morning. More were put out at 6.00am. As the village awoke many people were surprised to see the angels. Hundreds of Christmas Angels were now in place with a message from St Andrew's Church of hope, joy, love and peace at Christmas. Slowly the angels disappeared as people took them home. Many comments were made 'it started my Christmas', 'it brought a smile to my face', 'what a lovely idea'.



THE PASTORAL HUB

In the Autumn a small planning team met together to look at ways in which we could support the pastoral needs of people at St. Andrew's and the wider community. Building on the principle we began during covid we invited anyone who would like to be involved to attend a meeting to discuss what our approach would be. Approx 10 people attended 3 sessions of training led very ably by Mandy Norton. We now have a group of parish visitors who currently about to start regular visiting. If you would like a visitor or you know someone else who would like a visitor please let us know.

TEA AND CHAT

Tea and Chat began at the end of March and meets in Corbridge Community Hub (formerly the Methodist Chapel) on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month from 2.00pm to 4.00pm. Tea and homemade cake is served and we enjoy good conversation over a cuppa. It is an ideal opportunity to meet new faces and to get out for a couple of hours. We can collect people if they are unable to get there themselves. Thank you to all those who are helping to get this initiative 'off the ground'. If you would like to be involved in these 2 initiatives and have some time to spare please do contact, in the first instance, Linda.

OUTREACH

WEST NORTHUMBERLAND FOODBANK

Monica Philbrick



Boxes at the back of the church are regularly collected and taken to the Food Bank in Burn Lane, Hexham. Over the last year the growth of the work of the Food Bank has been both inspiring, yet sad, as one sees the need increasing...and it's not just food!

Some key user figures *October 2021 – September 2022*

570 households - 1241 adults and children

313 households using the Food bank for the first time in the last year

500 regular cash donations – allowing purchases to supplement the Food Bank or provide vouchers*

30+local businesses providing support

65 food bank volunteers

23 trained helpline volunteers

5075 deliveries to 570 homes

Deliveries to 44 towns and villages (Haltwhistle and West, Prudhoe and East)

Hardship awards:

Cash donations and money from Northumberland CC can be used to provide these awards which are distributed via the Help Line which runs alongside the Food Bank. Energy and shopping vouchers* are made available. The Help Line gets calls from 100 households each week and, as well as organising the awards, can help people access other services.

Case Studies: Dave, Vicky and the WNFB

Dave* works 20 hours a week; he can't work any more hours due to health problems. He receives Universal Credit (UC) monthly. Occasionally his payday from work falls on a weekend or a bank holiday, so he gets paid early. That means he gets paid twice in one UC monthly assessment period, so he doesn't get any UC for the following month. Dave has shared custody of his children. He has a two-bedroom property but doesn't get any UC housing element for the second bedroom. After paying his rent and bills, he's left with just over £20 per week to live on. When Dave contacted WNFB for help, his cooker had broken beyond repair and he had very little credit left on the gas and electric prepayment meters. They used some Hardship Funds to buy Dave a new cooker and get it safely installed. WNFB also provided him with energy vouchers to top up both meters, and supermarket vouchers to stock up on some fresh food.

Vicky* is a single parent of three children, but her youngest was born just after the Two Child Limit came into force in April 2017. This means she gets no extra UC for her youngest, which would have been worth £244.58 a month.

When she contacted WNFB in January, she'd had a very difficult winter. After the Universal Credit uplift of £20 per week ended in October and the energy price hikes came into effect, Vicky was finding it increasingly difficult to afford to keep the prepayment meter topped up and her home warm. She told WNFB that she tries to batch cook for the week ahead and get all the laundry done on Sunday, as her energy supplier can't turn off the prepayment meter at the weekend. WNFB used Hardship Funds to provide an energy voucher so she could top up the meter. **Names have been changed.*

For more details, do read the WNFB annual report on their website:

www.westnorthumberlandfoodbank.org.uk

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION

Simon Hunter

The increased use of social media, smart phones and mobiles devices has meant we have been able to communicate with more people in the parish than ever before.

At St Andrew's we have sent out a weekly church email which has helped to keep everyone up to date, we have over 350 households subscribing.

It provides a link to THIS WEEK page on the Church website which gives you access to the bulletin, reflection, orders of services, YouTube services, Messy Church Videos and other relevant information. This information can also be accessed via the Church website directly, or streamed Services can also be accessed directly from YouTube: St. Andrew's Church, Corbridge.

If you haven't already subscribed to the weekly email, you can do this online on the church website or via our database application form which is available in church.

Website: www.corbridgechurch.org.uk :- Each week the website is updated with the Sunday service resources and also the link to the YouTube channel. Streaming takes place on our YouTube channel at 10:00 a.m. each Sunday.

Facebook: We have three Facebook pages: Corbridge, Corbridge Church Families and St. Andrew's Church Christmas Tree Festival and a twitter account: Corbridge Church tweets@CorbridgeChurch1

At the main festive seasons: - Advent and Christmas, Lent and Easter we produce a booklet containing all the relevant service and event information these are made available on the website.

We would welcome contribution for the News and Events section these can be emailed to sahunter@corbridgechurch.org.uk.

Paper copies of the Bulletin and Booklets are available to members of the congregation who don't have access to the internet

Three editions of the Parish News were published over the last 12 months (in May, October and February), with printed copies available at the back of church, and an online version to read or download from the church website.

Max Philbrick stood down as design and production editor after the February 2023 edition.



DEANERY SYNOD

Acting Deanery Secretary

Corbridge Deanery Synod meets 3 times a year to discuss various relevant topics and the Deanery Development group meets more frequently. This is principally a group reflecting on, and suggesting ideas, to take forward the development of the mission and ministry of the Deanery. The decision-making body is the Synod. In this session of Synod we have looked at: Living in Love and Faith, Lay Ministry and our Deanery Mission Plan. We have also set up working groups to look at various aspects of the mission and ministry of the Deanery, these are: Shared Ministry, Simplification Management – Use of Skills, Eco church, Communication, Identity / Getting to know each other All Deaneries have been asked to produce a Deanery Plan on a standard proforma so a considerable amount of time has been spent engaging with this information from the Diocese in order to compile our plan using the Diocesan toolkit.

Thank you to Max and Monica Philbrick and Alice Bryant for being our representatives. Their term of office has now completed. Alice is happy to continue as a rep but we are looking for 2 other people

EVENTS & FUNDRAISING

MUSICAL EVENTS

Revd Linda E. Hunter and Jean Wilks

A small team comprising Mary Oswell, Jenny Watson, Coleen Petrie, Gail Williams, Nicki Swart and Marc Bryant and ourselves meet regularly to plan the musical events for St. Andrew's.

We have held the following musical events in 2022 / 2023:

10 th April	St. John Passion sung by the Bishops Consort
23 rd April	Gould Trio Concert
14 th May	Ryton Choral Society Concert
6 th May to 3 rd June	Lunchtime Organ Recitals: Marc Bryant, John Roper & John Ross
10 th June	Jubilate Concert
9 th July	Pupil concert: Sarah Robinson
28 th July to 31 st July	Corbridge Chamber Music Festival
5 th July	Lunchtime Summer Music: Piano – Cristo Harijan
19 th August	Lunchtime Summer Music: Organ – John Ross & March Bryant
26 th August	Lunchtime Summer Music: Piano – Cristo Harijan
2 nd September	Lunchtime Summer Music: Organ – John Roper
3 rd September	Birkett and Fisk Jazz Concert: This was a very good concert but poorly attended which was disappointing
6 th September	Khrystyna Mychailichenko: Piano Concert

Unfortunately we had to postpone 2 lunchtime concerts and the Music from the French Baroque concert due to the death of the Queen

23 rd September	Lunchtime Summer Music: Marc Bryant
30 th September	Lunchtime Summer Music: John Ross
7 th October	Lunchtime Summer Music: Deborah Thorne and Nick Butters
19 th November	Antiphon
20 th November	Ryton Choral Society
17 th December	Mulled wine and Carol Singing led by the Choir
11 th January	Khrystyna Mychailichenko: Piano Concert
28 th January	Music from the French Baroque Afternoon Concert
16 th February	Gould Piano Trio Concert
24 th Feb to 17 th March	Lunchtime Organ Recitals: Marc Bryant, John Roper & John Ross
11 th March	Pupil Concert: Sarah Robinson
25 th March	Sage Chamber Choir Concert
26 th March	Stainer Crucifixion – St. Andrew's Choir

EVENTS

July Fete and Autumn Fayre: Lots of people came to browse and purchase items.

Textile and Art Exhibition: This was the first exhibition, the displays were fantastic. We couldn't believe how talented people were in the village.

Corbridge's Roman Legacy talk by David Waugh, this was well attended and was enjoyed by all present.

Christmas Tree Festival: As usual there were many innovative ideas interpreted in a range of ways, it was a delight to walk round and see them all. Staying open later on 3 nights helped ease the congestion and made it easier to view the trees. We raised a total of £10,387.00 on this event which with gift aid should be about £11,000, this was a fantastic result.

Pancakes and Quiz evening organised by Pauline and Susan Bennett.

FUNDRAISING: Thanks to Suzette and Warwick for arranging the Grand Draw which brought in over £1,000.

If you would like to be involved in helping with any of our events or have some suggestions of others that we may have do let us know.



The flower arranging Team have had a busy, interesting, varied and fascinating year given the many diverse aspects and nature of the work undertaken at St. Andrew's Church. The year has also been one of transition.

A Brief outline of Progress and Developments

First of all, we wish to extend our sincere thanks to the Sheila Goldsworthy who has been Team Leader for the flower arranging work at St. Andrew's Church for many years. Sheila has done a simply sterling job and she decided towards the end of the year that she wished to step down from the leadership role however Sheila plans to carry out some flower arranging work from time to time. We all wish her well for the future.

Planning the Future

The long-term plan is to encourage members of the church community and also all people around the community who may be interested in joining the flower arranging team. In this regard experience and knowledge is not important as the simply qualification is to join the team and gradually progress in the knowledge and experience of the activity.

The aim is to create a happy and enjoyable environment so that the people keep coming back and so the long-term goal to build up an enlarged and accomplished team is achieved.

Finally

We wish to thank all people who have donated money for flowers for Christmas and Easter and anyone who would like to be involved with the flower arranging team are invited to contact Ann Prudhoe on Mobile No: 07483 855385 or 01434 632971.





I am very proud to be the Executive Headteacher of Corbridge and Broomhaugh First Schools; special places to learn and grow. Since my appointment in September 2022, and promotion from Executive Deputy Headteacher, I have worked hard to build on the successful foundations already in place.

Our team of dedicated staff work hard to provide engaging lessons that inspire our children to take their subjects beyond the classroom and develop a lifelong love of learning.

We have the Christian values of respect, forgiveness, truth, thankfulness and kindness guiding us in all we do, helping us to be courageous advocates who make a difference in our local community and the wider world.

'Let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.' 1 John 3:18

Through high expectations and encouragement, we empower our children to believe in themselves and be the best they can be!

School Information

Number of children on roll: 158	% SEND pupils: 8%
Age range of pupils: 4-9 years	% of disadvantaged pupils: 14.6%

Our number on roll has increased from 138 at the end of the academic year 2021/22 to 158 this year. We have reached our maximum intake of 30 children for Reception in September 2023. There are still a number of places in our Nursery available and we welcome new starters throughout the year.

Key Developments (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Education)

The whole school ethos, and promotion of personal development, are enhanced through collective worship, RE, the work of the play leaders and worship leaders, the work of the school council and the work of the eco-council. Picture News is used in whole school worship to discuss current affairs; pupils can access the content at a suitable level. The use of Picture News encourages discussion and debate through links to current affairs. Pupils are encouraged to talk about things happening in the world right now, becoming courageous advocates for change. Staff look at how the Bible can be linked to Picture News. The worship schedule is on the school website so that parents can use links

from Picture News at home and know what has been discussed in school. Leaders will assess the usefulness and impact of this going forward. Pupil voice on PSHE and worship was carried out last year – pupils were positive about their experiences and stated that they enjoy working and learning together.

A PSHE enrichment calendar has been created for the year across the Federation; it includes, for example, global goals week, Black History Month, LGBT+ History Month, Christianity projects, STEM, Remembrance Day and Children in Need. There is a strong focus on the purpose of the days and why the school takes part. In both schools, a Rainbow Bake Off was held to support Children in Need. This was to emphasise that we are all different, like the colours of the rainbow, but we are all equally important. This took place during Anti-Bullying Week and supported the work on this. A lead assembly looked at bullying and homophobic bullying linked to this. British Values are interwoven with the Christian Values (Respect, truth, forgiveness, thankfulness and friendship) and ethos of the school. As part of the PSHE curriculum, each half term each class has a British Value that they dig deeper into. British values are also discussed in assembly. Members of the ministry team support this in school through worship and time spent in classes, working with the children and training prayer and worship leaders.

Commando Joe's respect curriculum and work in Forest School develop character. Pupils are supported in their development of good listening and communication skills. At CFS, children in Year 4 and Reception have a weekly Forest School time. The rest are allocated throughout the year. Carol Orrick has a day release each week to work on outdoor and grounds development. She has submitted funding bids to extend the allotment area and meetings have taken place to explore establishing a bee colony within this (Our 'bee the best you can bee' bees!) Work is also starting on establishing a sensory garden at CFS and children access weekly allotment sessions. At both schools, we are focusing on food, food miles and global consciousness, allowing the children to understand where their food comes from and to grow their own.

Every day, every class chooses someone to be a special person. The special person hears positive affirmations from their peers and provides their own self-affirmations; some pupils can initially find this difficult to do, however self-esteem is boosted as a result. The work also supports oracy and language development.

The SENDCo works closely with a number of external partners to promote positive emotional wellbeing and mental health in school; she has put in place a range of strategies to support pupils and parents. The SENDCo is a highly skilled practitioner who has a sharp focus on achieving the best outcomes for all pupils.



Textile and Art Exhibition 2022



Khrystyna Mychailichenko

The Parish of St Andrew's, Corbridge with St Oswald, Halton and St James, Newton Hall

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31st December 2022



1. Independent Examiner's Report
2. Treasurer's Report
3. Summarised Balance Sheet
4. Summarised Statement of Financial Activities
5. Notes to Financial Statements
6. Grants & Donations

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, CORBRIDGE

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, CORBRIDGE

I report on the accounts of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31 December 2022 which are attached.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner.

As the members of the Parochial Church Council, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act) does not apply. It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of the procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 43(7)(b) of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report.

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners and to be found in the church guidance 2011 edition. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Parochial Church Council and a comparison of the accounts presented with these records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as members concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (a) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
- (i) To keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the act; and
 - (ii) To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act;
- have not been met; or
- (b) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.


Mike Collins

Dated: 13/3/23 .

Parochial Church Council of Corbridge, with Halton and Newton Hall.

TREASURER'S REPORT

For the year ending 31st December 2022

1. Summary

In 2022, funds increased by £10,011 compared to an increase of £26,733 in 2021. In order to properly understand how our finances fared last year, some more detail is required and this is set out below:

£000's	2022	2021
Surplus on Operating Activities	18.7	17.9
Capital Projects	-3.7	-0.2
Change in value of Investments	-5.0	8.1
Legacies Received	0.0	1.0
Net Movement in Funds	10.0	26.7

There is a timing issue in the payment of charitable grants (Take 5) which affects the comparison of 2022 and 2021. This was mentioned in the 2021 report. Payments due under the 2021 programme of £7,600 were not actually paid out until 2022 which, as a result, carries 2 years charitable grant costs. If the results are adjusted to show the effects of the delay, **a more proper comparison for Surplus on Operating Activities is £26,300 compared to £10,300 in 2021.**

2. Main Features

- 2.1 The level of personal giving including associated gift aid rose by 6% in the year following another successful annual appeal.
- 2.2 The value of donations received, including our share of funeral and wedding collections as well as wall safe takings etc and other bona fide contributions, rose by £6,400 with a further £1250 coming from gift aid.
- 2.3 Net income from fund raising events rose by £7,900
- 2.4 Income levels were generally excellent with the already mentioned personal giving and donations hitting peaks not seen for many years. The fund raising total was also very strong, falling just short of the remarkable 2019 total.
- 2.5 Predictably, some operating costs increased as we moved on from the effects of the pandemic but routine maintenance costs were modest.
- 2.6 Capital spend was also modest including a new gas boiler for the cottage and the replacement of hymn books which was covered by a legacy.
- 2.7 The continuing turbulence in the financial markets meant that much of the increase in the value of the Charifund investment that we saw in 2021 was lost in 2022.
- 2.8 Reserves at the end of the year were very strong at just short of £219,000. Considerable work and expense is, however, needed to improve the condition of St Andrew's Cottage.

3. Conclusion

Although it is not obvious from the formal section of the accounts, 2022 was an extremely successful year for our Church finances. The most reliable and consistent guide that we have to the nature of financial results is performance on Operating Activities and where, if timing quirks are corrected, the surplus rose from £10,300 in 2021 to a remarkable £26,300. 2022 was a year when all of the sources of income performed well and there were no unpleasant surprises within expenditure. Longer term contracts avoided, for a while at least, the damaging effects of gas and electricity price increases.

2022 was an excellent year for us and we should enjoy that. It would be a mistake, however, to suppose that a pattern for future results has been established. It was a remarkably troublefree year which has set the standard at a level which will be very difficult to repeat let alone improve upon.

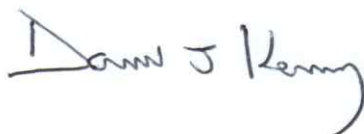
Parocial Church Council of Corbridge with Halton and Newton Hall


SUMMARISED BALANCE SHEET – at 31st December 2022

	<i>Note</i>	2022 £	2021 £
INVESTMENTS			
Investment assets	5		
CBF Fund (CCLA 1S 853.05 shares)		17625	19977
M & G Fund (3033 units)		44571	47200
		62196	67176
CURRENT ASSETS			
CBF Fund (CCLA 1D + CCLA 2D)		11160	11015
Cash at bank and in hand	7	137650	122474
Halton General		7141	7141
		155950	140630
<u>ADD ACCRUED INCOME & PREPAYMENTS</u>	6	9219	8660
<u>LESS LIABILITIES FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR</u>	8	8399	7511
NET CURRENT ASSETS		156770	141778
NET ASSETS		218966	208955
FUNDS			
Unrestricted	10	164745	155938
Restricted		54221	53017
		218966	208955

The attached notes form part of these financial statements.

Approved by the PCC on
and signed on their behalf


Chairman 22/3/23


Treasurer 22/3/23

Parochial Church Council of Corbridge, with Halton and Newton Hall

SUMMARISED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
– for the year ending 31st December 2022

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
				2022 £	2021 £
INCOME & ENDOWMENTS					
Incoming resources from donors	2a	111,705	51	111756	103993
Other voluntary income resources	2b	11,496	36,615	48111	60617
Income from charitable and ancillary trading	2c	5,619	12,319	17938	17221
Other ordinary incoming resources	2d	0	3,991	3991	1097
Extraordinary Income	2e	0	1,137	1137	0
Income from investments	2f	3,065	122	3186	2757
Total Income & Endowments excl Legacies		131,885	54,235	186120	185686
EXPENDITURE					
Grants	3a	15,145	3,991	19136	1577
Activities related to the activities of church	3b	95,919	42,262	138181	127560
Fund-raising and publicity	3c	89	5,613	5702	976
Church management and administration	3d	4,408	0	4408	5481
Repairs & Maintenance	3e	0	0	0	2629
Projects	3f	0	3,701	3701	29799
Expenditure in relation to prior years		0	0	0	0
Total Expenditure		115,561	55,567	171128	168022
Legacies Received	2g	0	0	0	1000
Net Income/Expenditure (-)		16,324	-1,332	14992	18664
Transfers Between Funds		-2,536	2,536	0	0
Other Recognised Gains/Losses (-)					
Gains/Losses (-) on Investments		-4,981	0	-4981	8070
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		8,807	1,204	10011	26733
BALANCES BROUGHT FWD AT 1 JAN 2022		155,938	53,017	208955	182221
BALANCES CARRIED FWD AT 31 DECEMBER 2022		164,745	54,221	218966	208955

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2011 together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historic cost convention.

Scope

The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They include the transactions of directly related activities but do not include the transactions of any church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Funds

Restricted funds are maintained to ensure that donations or contributions made by donors for specific purposes are properly applied. Restricted funds are set up and removed at the direction of PCC. Unrestricted funds are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC.

Incoming Resources

Voluntary income and capital resources

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.

Planned giving receivable is recognised only when received.

Income tax recoverable on covenants/gift aid donations is recognised in the year in which it applies.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement and the Income from fund raising activities is accounted for gross.

Sales of books, magazines, postcards, etc. from the church bookstall are accounted for gross.

Income will be accrued as appropriate.

Other ordinary income

Rental income from the letting of church premises is recognised when the rental is due.

Income from investments

Dividends and interest are accounted for when receivable. Tax recoverable on such income is recognised in the same accounting year.

Resources expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. All costs have been directly attributed to the expenditure categories used in the statement of financial activities. The church is not registered for VAT, accordingly expenditure is shown gross of unrecoverable VAT.

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

The parish share is accounted for when payable. Any share unpaid at 31 December is provided for in these accounts as an operational (though not a legal) liability and is shown as a creditor in the Balance Sheet.

Fixed assets

Consecrated land and buildings and church furnishings

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993.

No value is placed on movable furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which requires a faculty for disposal since the PCC considers this an inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or benefice buildings and movable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvements, is written off as expenditure in the SOFA and separately disclosed.

Investments

Investments are included at market value at 31 December. The statement of financial activity includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluations and disposals during the year.

Net current assets

Current Assets include cash held on deposit, either with the CBF Church of England Funds, at the bank or in hand.

Amounts owing to, or prepaid by, PCC at 31st December are shown as "Accrued Income & Prepayments".

Amounts which have not been invoiced by service providers but are owed by PCC are shown as "Liabilities Falling Due Within One Year"

2. INCOME & ENDOWMENTS

		<i>Unrestricted Income</i>	<i>Restricted Income</i>	<i>TOTAL FUNDS</i>	
		<i>£</i>		<i>2022</i>	<i>2021</i>
		<i>£</i>		<i>£</i>	<i>£</i>
Incoming resources from donors					
2a	Bankers orders to Personal Giving account	78,997	0	78997	77180
	Tax refunds from gift aid.	24,133	0	24133	21240
	Planned giving with weekly envelopes	0	0	0	0
	Cash collections at all services	8,576	51	8627	5573
Total: 2a		111,705	51	111756	103993
Other voluntary income resources					
2b	Donations	200	18,185	18385	11261
	Votive Candles/Literature/Wallbox	0	3,071	3071	2778
	Other Fund raising	11,296	15,360	26655	26529
	Organ Appeal	0	0	0	19712
Halton 2b	Church Box	0	0	0	338
Total: 2b		11,496	36,615	48111	60617
Income from charitable & ancillary trading					
2c	Fees	5,619	11,389	17008	16206
	Hire of Church/Cottage	0	930	930	1015
Total: 2c		5,619	12,319	17938	17221
Other ordinary incoming resources					
2d	Funeral collections	0	3,645	3645	950
	Special collections	0	346	346	147
Total: 2d		0	3,991	3991	1097
Extraordinary items					
2e	Utilities Support	0	1,137	1137	0
Total: 2e		0	1,137	1137	0
Income from investments					
2f	Dividends and interest	3,065	122	3186	2757
Total: 2f		3,065	122	3186	2757
Total incoming resources before Legacies: 2a-f		131,885	54,235	186120	185686
Legacies 2g	Total: 2g	0	0	0	1000
Total incoming resources: 2a-g		131,885	54,235	186120	186686

3. EXPENDITURE		Unrestricted Expenditure		Restricted Expenditure		TOTAL FUNDS	
		£	£	£	£	2022	2021
Grants							
3a	PCC donations	0	346	346	147		
	PCC grants	15,145	0	15145	480		
	Funeral services	0	3,645	3645	950		
Total: 3a		15,145	3,991	19136	1577		
Activities directly related to the activities of the church							
3b	Ministry						
	– Parish Share + Dioc Serv Fees	77,998	5,763	83761	84026		
	– Vicarage	3,484	0	3484	3327		
	– Vicar	3,313	0	3313	2853		
	– Other Clergy	8,053	0	8053	7075		
	Church and Services						
	– Building + building insurance	0	16,649	16649	16293		
	– Service requisites	3,072	2,767	5838	2430		
	– Music						
	Organ/Pianos	0	648	648	816		
	Choir	0	2,628	2628	906		
	Camerata	0	0	0	0		
	Organists	0	9,012	9012	7376		
	Messy Church + Women's Fellowship	0	420	420	103		
	St Andrew's Cottage	0	4,376	4376	2355		
	Memorial Garden Engraving	0	0	0	0		
Total: 3b		95,919	42,262	138181	127560		
Fund-raising and publicity							
3c	Cost of events	89	5,613	5702	976		
Total: 3c		89	5,613	5702	976		
Church management and administration							
3d	Copying, stationery and telephone	3,227	0	3227	3201		
	Bank charges + prof fees + misc	1,182	0	1182	2280		
Total: 3d		4,408	0	4408	5481		
Repairs and maintenance							
3e	Miscellaneous			0	2629		
Total: 3e		0	0	0	2629		
Projects							
3f	New Gas Boiler	0	2,291	2291	0		
	Clock Winding		0	0	7891		
	Organ Renovation		0	0	21908		
	Contribution received for new door		-1,000	-1000	0		
	New Hymn Books		2,410	2410	0		
Total: 3f		0	3,701	3701	29799		
Total expenditure: 3a–f		115,561	55,567	171128	168022		

4 STAFF COSTS	2022	2021
	£	£
Wages and Salaries	7,403	4,271

During the year, the PCC paid fees for organists and a trumpeter for Remembrance Day and also for a cleaner. None of the recipients were paid more than £50,000. No member of the PCC received any remuneration or benefit during the year.

5 INVESTMENTS

CBF CCLA 1S Investment Fund: Units = 853.05 Historic cost = £3,519. Market value at 31 Dec 2022 = **£17625.21** (31 Dec 2021 = **£19976.81**).

M&G Investment Fund. Units = 3033 Historic cost = £12,000. Market value at 31 Dec 2021 = **£44570.54** (31 Dec 2022 = **£47199.55**).

6 DEBTORS	2022	2021
Accrued Income & Prepayments:		
Gift Aid	3521	3571
Insurance Prepaid	1076	1004
Parish Fees	0	893
December cash banked in January incl card reader	4621	2748
Hire Fees	0	444
	9219	8660

Gift Aid tax claimed has been accrued this year. This accrual is in line with guidance provided from PCC accountability and the Charities Act.

7 CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND	2022	2021
Bank		
– Corbridge PCC (Lloyds)	44,867	45,092
– Planned Giving	8,803	6,897
– Corbridge PCC (Barclays)	39,905	26,793
– Womens Fellowship	859	602
– Fabric	43,089	43,089
Petty Cash	126	1
	137,650	122,474

8 LIABILITIES: FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR	2022	2021
Accrued Costs:		
Advance contributions to events	1165	1500
Organist fees	728	1030
Utilities	2466	1546
Expenses	496	743
Prepaid Wedding Fees	1246	946
BT	281	624
Invoices	1318	911
Parish Fees	142	210
Funeral collections	556	0
	8399	7511

9 FUND DETAILS

The church maintains restricted funds for specific short and long term purposes for St Andrew's and Halton as well as those associated with specific fund raising initiatives and donations. Financial transactions in which the church is simply an intermediary, receiving and passing on charitable donations as in the cases of funeral services or "bucket" collections, are

also treated as belonging to restricted funds.

10 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUND

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Investments	62,196	0	62,196
Current Assets	99,447	56,503	155,950
Current Debtors	6,432	2,787	9,219
Current Liabilities	(3,329)	(5,069)	(8,399)
	<u>164,745</u>	<u>54,221</u>	<u>218,966</u>

Restricted funds:

	At 1 January £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Transfers £	At 31 December 2022 £
Projects	40,319	1122	4,838	0	36,603
Halton	7,526	273	0	0	7,799
Church Music	0	12004	14,469	2,465	0
Building Running Costs	329	26783	22,361	0	4,751
Funerals	0	3645	3,645	0	0
Other Charities	0	2477	2,443	-35	0
Local Emergency	1,159	0	0	0	1,159
Messy Church	262	51	420	107	0
Vicar/Churchwardens etc	1,206	0	0	0	1,206
Try Praying	1,000	0	805	0	195
Heritage Boards	736	0	0	0	736
DBF	0	5763	5,763	0	0
1350 Anniversary	0	690	0	0	690
Other Minor	481	1427	825	0	1,083
	<u>53,017</u>	<u>54235</u>	<u>55,567</u>	<u>2,536</u>	<u>54,221</u>

Regular income such as standing order receipts, plate collections and parish fees tends to be "unrestricted". This means that the income can be used for any legitimate expenditure incurred subject to normal approval procedures. We carry unrestricted funds which represent the surplus of income over expenditure at any one point in time. These funds can obviously be applied to any legitimate purpose.

When finance which is to be applied to a particular object (for example the Organ Appeal) is received from a donor, it is "restricted" to that purpose. The money has, in effect, been given on condition that it will be spent in that way. Where, however, more money is collected for a particular object than we need, surplus funds can be applied to a purpose which is a "near hit". In the case of the Organ Appeal, for example, this could be some other form of music in the church subject to the approval of PCC. It is not normally possible to hold a negative fund. That would be a situation where we have spent more on a restricted object than we had received. In a case such as that, the shortfall would be made up out of unrestricted funds.

Within our total closing unrestricted funds for 2022 (£164745), £66,245 came from a legacy. Although not restricted, this generous donation is to be "designated" (set aside) by PCC for specific purposes. Designation in this way allows PCC the flexibility to apply funds where most needed.

PCC Grants & Donations

	2019	2020	2021	2022
	£	£	£	£
Buque Family - Support for medical studies	395			
Christian Aid	115			
Royal British Legion	328		230	223
Reaching The Unreached	1725			
Nightstop	1725			
Stop Gap	1725	1096		1000
Stop Gap 2021				1200
Church Mission Society		1918		1925
Church Mission Society 2021				1800
Practical Compassion for Destitute Children 2021				300
A Rocha UK		250		
A Rocha UK 2020/21				1472
The Yohannes family		1644		1925
The Yohannes family 2021				1800
Lighthouse Project		1000		
Mission Initiative North East 2021				1000
Mission Initiative North East 2022				1000
Climate Stewards				900
Corbridge Youth Initiative				500
Cuthbert's Cycling Challenge				100
Newcastle Cathedral Renovation Project			250	
	<u>6,012</u>	<u>5,908</u>	<u>480</u>	<u>15,145</u>

Note that out of the total payment of £15,145 in 2022, £7,572 related to the 2020 or 2021 discretionary programmes.

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, CORBRIDGE

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, CORBRIDGE

I report on the accounts of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31 December 2022 which are attached.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner.

As the members of the Parochial Church Council, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act) does not apply. It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of the procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 43(7)(b) of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report.

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners and to be found in the church guidance 2011 edition. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Parochial Church Council and a comparison of the accounts presented with these records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as members concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (a) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - (i) To keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the act; and
 - (ii) To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act;have not been met; or

- (b) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.


Mike Collins

Dated: 13/3/23

Accounts

**The Parish of St. Andrew's Corbridge with St. Oswald, Halton
and Newton Hall.**



ANNUAL REPORT

for year ending

31st March 2021

Incumbent

Canon Dr David J Kennedy

Bank

Lloyds Bank, Priestpopple, Hexham. NE46 1PA

Barclays Bank, Priestpopple, Hexham. NE46 1PA



Parish of Corbridge with Halton and Newton Hall Our Parish Mission Statement

Sharing the length and breadth of the love of Jesus

We are a community of Christians, committed to serve the Living God we know in Jesus Christ. Along with every Church in the Diocese of Newcastle we strive to grow the Church and bring hope

- through worship and prayer that is engaged and holy
- in living out and sharing the Gospel by word and deed
- through reaching out to the entire community by caring for all
- by seeking to grow in faith as Christian disciples
- by welcoming visitors into our buildings and our Church life
- by working in partnership with other Christians in our parish, deanery and diocese

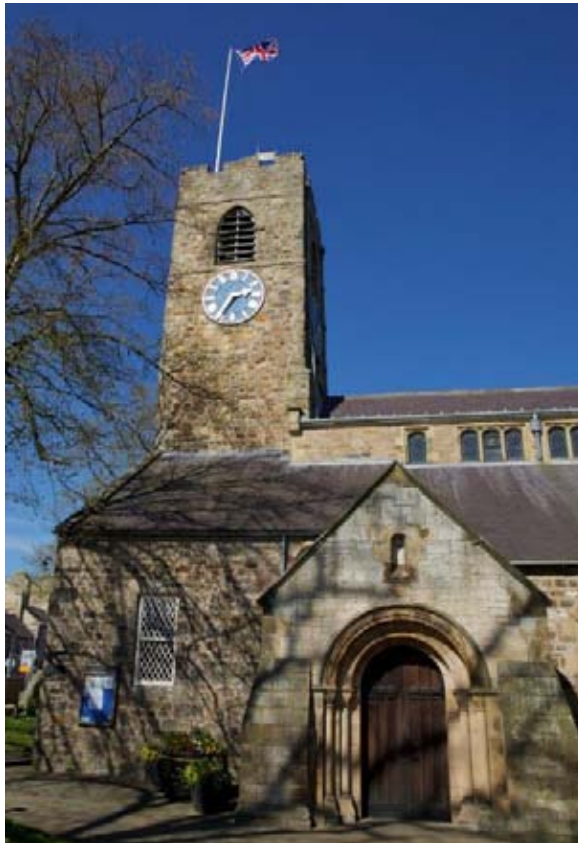
To this end

- our doors are open
- our minds are open
- our hearts are open

Inspired by the example of St Andrew, we strive to bring children, teenagers and adults to Jesus.

July 2019

We are now in lockdown – 23rd March 2020



Our first public service after reopening on 4th July – we welcomed Rev'd Sam Lohead as Assistant Curate to Corbridge.

ANNUAL REPORTS**page**

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Mission and Ministry

Junior Church and Messy Church	Louise Stubbs	23
Outside Mission and Giving: Take 5	Rev'd Lynn Caudwell	26
Church Music	Colin Williams	27
Book Club	Rev'd Lynn Caudwell	29
Home Group	Anne King-Lewis	29
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Women's Fellowship	Linda E Hunter	31
Prayer Group	Jennifer Wright	31

Outreach

Food bank	Monica Philbrick	32
Church Welcomers /Guides	Elizabeth Collins	32
Electronic Communication	Simon A Hunter	33
Parish News	Max Philbrick	33
Events & Fundraising	Jean Wilks & Linda Hunter	34
Church Cottage	Suzette Milne	35
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Corbridge C of E First School	Jennifer Ainsley & Gayle Baty	36

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL CHURCH AND ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETINGS
HELD IN THE CHURCH AT 11.00am ON SUNDAY 13th SEPTEMBER**

PRESENT:

Canon David Kennedy, Rev'd Lynn Caudwell and 34 laity.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Ron and Jane Gold	Barbara and John McNamara	Michael Priestley
Fay Dickinson	Suzette Milne	Edward Pybus
Michael and Mary Rae	Alistair and Kate Jenkins	Rev'd S. Lohead
Janet Kennedy	Rachel Kennedy	
Canon Campbell and Mrs Monica Matthews		

MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL CHURCH AND PAROCHIAL MEETINGS:

Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on Sunday 14th April were approved and accepted as a true record. Proposed by Warwick Milne and seconded by Pauline Bennett. Agreed unanimously. There were no matters arising.

ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS:

The Vicar thanked Linda Hunter and Mike Collins, the present Church Wardens for their unstinting work and support over the past 18 months – he feels blessed to have two exceptional people as wardens.

Mike is to stand down this year and the Vicar thanked him for his years of service as a calm, cheerful and smiling ambassador of St Andrew's, presenting him with a gift of appreciation. Linda Hunter also expressed her thanks for his ready availability and steadying hand, particularly during the appointment of the new Vicar. Mike in turn expressed his thanks to the clergy and congregation and said it had been an honour and privilege to serve. The Vicar also expressed gratitude to Linda Hunter who works tirelessly for this Church and others, much of what has been achieved could not have been done without her efforts.

Two nominations were received for the two vacancies, Linda Hunter and Jean Wilks. As there were no further nominations both were re-elected unanimously.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Cliff Wright spoke to the report, recording accurately and consistently the financial situation throughout the year. Looking back over the year would normally give some insight into the coming year. However, this has been no normal year and therefore the accounts do not provide much of a guide to the future.

There have been important highlights through 2019 when in April the Giving Appeal saw a 30% increase in giving; the Organ Appeal launched in October within 2 months had raised more than 50% of the total required, as well as the Wedding Festival, Flower Festival, Music Festival and Christmas Tree Festival all raising considerable sums, as well as two exceptional legacies amounting to £80k. However, the year ends with a small surplus, due in large part to our £75k contribution to Parish Share which is set to rise to £78k in 2020.

In 2019 half our income came from standing orders which remain strong so far. The second half from all other fund raising, front of house sales etc., and have been severely affected by Covid. However, we will meet all our commitments including 10% to charitable giving and will end the year with around a £40k loss – though it will not be necessary to release funds from investment where we have considerable reserves.

Cliff invited anyone who had any questions or would like more information to contact him.

The Vicar thanked Cliff for his enormous contribution, delivered with a lightness of touch, that provides insight and wisdom with a sense of calm.

Liz Buckley proposed, seconded by Brenda Ford and agreed unanimously that the Treasurers report be accepted and signed off.

REPORTS:

The Vicar thanked Linda Hunter for compiling the very comprehensive Annual Report, gathering information from all the many contributors. It displays an active, wide ranging and spiritual Church continuing to grow within our community. Copies are available on line, or printed copies can be made available.

Maureen Davison provided updated Electoral Roll figures, which in April stood at 156 and now at 162.

ELECTIONS:

Deanery Synod – The Vicar expressed gratitude to Monica and Max Philbrick and Jennifer Wright who have agreed to re-election for a second 3-year term. He believes this to be an increasingly important role as the deanery work closely together to further the ministry of the church. Mike Collins proposed, Paul Morris seconded and it was agreed unanimously the three be re-elected.

Parochial Church Council – Kate Jenkins, Anne King Lewis and Edward Pybus have all agreed to a further term as PCC members and 3 new members appointed as follows: -

John Williams	Proposed:	Michael Rae	Seconded:	Margaret Dowdeswell
David McEwan		Michael Priestley		Warwick Milne
David Preece		Suzette Milne		Warwick Milne

All appointments agreed unanimously and duly elected. There remains one PCC vacancy and anyone interested should contact David, Lynn or Linda for more information.

Warwick and Suzette Milne, are standing down this year, they were thanked for their tireless contributions and commitment to St Andrew's and will be greatly missed.

The Vicar thanked everyone for the many gifts and wisdom they brought to PCC and looked forward to furthering the progress already made during 2020.

APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER:

Mr Roger Jones has said he is willing to continue.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Linda Hunter expressed personal and PCC thanks to David for the time, energy, joy and commitment he has brought to the life of St Andrew's alongside his work as the Area Dean, the Prayer Strand and working alongside Bishop Christine. She expressed the thanks of everyone to Janet and her unfailing support behind the scenes for David and the Parish.

David too expressed his delight at being at St Andrews and working with a team of colleagues he values highly and despite this difficult year, looks forward to getting back fully on track in 2021. The meeting closed at 11. 50am with the grace.



During Advent 2020



Palm Sunday 2021

In my report last year, the reality of Covid was still very new and we wondered what the year would bring. I'm not sure any of us at that stage quite realized how much things would change both in our Church and in the wider community and nation. It has been a very tough year indeed, a year of restriction, fear, loss, isolation and disappointment for so many. But I feel proud of the way everyone has pulled together. And there is hope, not least from the amazing vaccine programme for which we thank God daily. Our pastoral and prayer network was and continues to be a real means of support and care and I am more than grateful for the hub leaders who fulfilled their duties so whole-heartedly and well. We have sought to keep the life of St Andrew's and Halton as full as possible and there has been much to learn and things to celebrate, even in the midst of all we have missed. I am also grateful to everyone who has continued to support the work of this Parish, not least financially, as the result of restrictions and lockdowns meant that many sources of income dried up. And thank you to everyone who responded to our Giving Commitment Sunday on Passion Sunday. Your continued support is a cause for joy and thanksgiving.

Worship

Through the first lock-down we quickly established YouTube on-line services. Initially, we were recording from our homes and it was a steep learning curve! Once we were allowed back into St Andrew's, we have pre-recorded in Church, and I am grateful to Rachel Kennedy and Sam Lohead who have recorded and uploaded the weekly services and to Simon Hunter who sent out the links. Our on-line presence will be part of our future ministry, and as I write this report, wi-fi is being installed in Church which in time will enable us to 'live-stream'. Also, our thanks are due to the Messy Church team who have produced regular YouTube recordings over the course of the year.

We were pleased to be able to worship in Church at Christmas, even if with greatly reduced accommodation. The abiding memory, however, is our two open-air Carol Services on 23 and 24 December in the churchyard, as out-door singing was permitted. Colin Williams arranged for members of Hexham Brass and friends to play, and while on 23 December the service was held in the midst of 'tempest, storm and wind', Christmas Eve was a beautiful evening and we were delighted that some 400 people attended the two services. Ian Wylie also generously filmed our Festival of Lessons and Carols for Christmas Eve, and many found that recording a means of both 'comfort and joy' in a difficult time. The diocesan 'Christmas in a Bag' initiative enabled us to provide a creative alternative to our popular Crib Service.

The second lock-down was a blow, but gradually since mid-March, we have begun to resume worship and we were delighted to have a full Holy Week programme of services, including two ecumenical services with Corbridge Methodist Church. On Easter Day, having the congregation singing in the churchyard was a real joy and we have continued singing the final hymn outdoors throughout Eastertide.

Meanwhile, a planning group has been meeting to scope a new Sunday afternoon service to be called *River at St Andrew's*. We are planning two summer pilot services with a view to this becoming a weekly informal and creative service open to all ages and giving an alternative style to our Sunday morning worship. We see this as central to our mission to grow our work with children, teenagers, families and all who would value an accessible and informal approach to worship. We will say more about this in the June *Parish News*.

The Organ

The Church organ fell silent in March 2020 as the £100,000 restoration project began.

The Lady Chapel was sealed off as a 'works area'. It was fascinating to see the organ completely dismantled, much of it removed to Lightbown's workshop in North Shields and then gradually re-assembled. The results are amazing; the organ sounds so much brighter and louder and we have new additions, including trumpet and trombone stops. The work was completed for Holy Week, and we are in the process of final adjustments and snagging. I am delighted to report that we have raised the £100,000 pounds, aided by some generous grants, overseen by Jean Wilks. The grants are due to the enormous generosity of the congregation and Village in response to our Gift Day in raising the first £60,000 ourselves. We are making plans for the Organ Re-dedication festival later this year (details will be published asap) when we can thank everyone for this amazing joint initiative.

We are grateful to Marc Bryant, both for playing all services during the summer and early autumn after John's retirement and for the loan of his own electric organ during the refurbishment. We are also most grateful to Simon Caudwell who shared services with Marc during the winter and spring, playing our piano beautifully.

People

Rosemary Hendry's placement with us as part of her ordination training was sadly brought to a premature end by the first lock-down. However, we were delighted when Rosemary was ordained Deacon in the autumn, serving at Greenside and Crawcrook. Rosemary's smile and positive ministry among us are abiding memories.

In July we were delighted to welcome Sam Lohead as Assistant Curate. Sam was initially licensed as a Lay Minister because of Covid but was eventually ordained Deacon in Hexham in October. Sam has made an excellent start to his ministry here, and we look forward to his ordination as priest on 3 July at St George's Jesmond and his first presidency of the Eucharist at St Andrew's on Wednesday 7 July at 7.30pm.

Also, in October we had the joy of seeing Lynn Caudwell ordained priest here at St Andrew's by Bishop Christine. Lynn's first presidency at the Eucharist was an evening to remember, with the Revd Jonathan Lawson, Vicar of Heaton, preaching at Lynn's invitation. It has been very good to receive Lynn's ministry among us as priest.

In December, after going through diocesan and national discernment, Linda Hunter was recommended to training for ordained ministry. There was great joy when this was announced in Church on the Sunday before Christmas, and Linda has begun her contextually-based training here in Corbridge under my supervision. Please keep her in your prayers.

In August, John Ross decided to retire as one of our Church Organists, having given years of service to St Andrew's and the music of our worship. We are greatly indebted to John for this ministry. In recognition of his outstanding service, the PCC appointed him as Organist Emeritus.

To succeed John, we are delighted that John Roper has been appointed as Job-Share Organist beginning this month. We are fortunate indeed to have a musician of John's calibre to join the music team and to be part of the life and worship of our Church.

Jean Wilks has made a splendid contribution in her first year as Churchwarden, working alongside Linda. As well as using her skills in grant applications for the Organ and mechanisation of the clock, Jean has taken on the fabric aspects of the warden's role, while continuing to sing in the choir and being Choir Secretary.

We were saddened by the death of a number of members of our Church community over the recent year, Nancy Dickinson, Anna Colquhoun, Tony Blofield, Helga Marshall, Margaret Coulson, Wilfrid Fawcett, Eileen Hopkins, and Paul Davison. Despite the restrictions we have been under, their funerals were moving and fitting thanksgivings for their life and faith as we rejoice that they are now with God in glory.

Mission and Ministry

I am grateful to Lynn, Sam and Linda for the written reflections they have provided throughout the year. This began as a means of providing spiritual sustenance for those who couldn't access YouTube or Zoom, but they have had much wider appeal as reflections on aspects of the Bible, prayer, theology and Christian living. Again, this is an aspect of ministry that we hope to continue so that we can grow in faith and in our grasp of the depth of Christian wisdom and spirituality.

Lynn has led on two excellent projects. The first is the Book Club, of which we have two currently running, with the possibility of further groups as the year progresses in and beyond Corbridge. The series of books explore our growth in faith and in prayer and have been hugely appreciated by the members. The second is the 'Take 5' Mission initiative. Lynn has led a small group scoping our annual charitable giving (10% of our planned giving), but also by real engagement with the 5 projects we are supporting and praying for weekly in our services. 'Take 5' will be a growing part of our Church life, and arising from it, in partnership with A Rocha UK we will begin to engage seriously with becoming an Eco-Church.

Jan Williams and Sam Lohead devised an outstanding Lent Course, delivered on Zoom, and exploring the new 'Northern Saints' Trails. Jan gave 6 outstanding talks from her knowledge and experience as a senior Blue Badge Guide and Sam responded with spiritual reflections. The Zoom audience was extensive, far beyond Corbridge, with 100 screens each week. We hope that we can 'try out' parts of the walks as the year progresses and how we might develop pilgrimage and as part of our corporate spirituality.

I have been involved in setting up lay training courses for Corbridge, Hexham and Bellingham deaneries on leading worship and pastoral care, with some members of St Andrew's undertaking the latter, and we will develop worship gifts as the *River* service moves forwards.

Members of the Parish Home Group, Prayer Group, and Women's Fellowship have continued through meeting on Zoom, and indeed most routine meetings have used the same medium. As we emerge from lock-down we need to press on with the next stage of embedding our Parish Mission Statement and restoring regular aspects of our 'normal' ministry. This will include occasional offices, seeking to welcome and inform those who will move into the new estate being built in the parish, and developing our faith formation. There is much to do.

Many, many people contribute to the diverse life of our Church and I will make that a feature of what I say at the APCM.

Conclusion

In the Book of Revelation, there is a repeated phrase in chapters 2 and 3: 'Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the Churches'. What is the Spirit saying to us, in this parish, to our Diocese, and to the Church nationally and internationally? Where is the wind of the Spirit blowing us? Where is the breath of the Spirit inspiring us into new ways of mission and service? Things are changing, and there will be new opportunities, new people, new initiatives if we can but respond in prayer, in love and in our commitment to our Lord and the gospel. May we listen together and discern together the way forward. Thank you for your love, forbearance, prayers, friendship and commitment to the God we know in Jesus and through the Spirit. At the last PCC I spoke on St Paul's conclusion to his great exposition of the Resurrection in 1 Corinthians 15. In view of the risen life of Christ and the sure and certain hope that we have of being raised through him to eternal life, St Paul brings us back to the present:

Therefore my beloved brothers and sisters, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, since you know that in the Lord, your labour is not in vain.



The Ministry Team recording their weekly Youtube service.

ELECTORAL ROLL

Maureen Davison

The total number at the beginning of the year was 156. During the year there have been 12 removals and fifteen additions. The current total of names on the Electoral Roll is 159.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING REPORT

MEMBERSHIP

Members of the PCC are either exofficio, elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with Church Representation Rules or co-opted by the PCC.

During the year the following served as members of the PCC:

Vicar:	Canon David J Kennedy
Assistant Curate:	Rev'd Lynn Caudwell
Assistant Curate:	Rev'd Sam Lohead
Churchwardens:	Linda E Hunter and Jean Wilks

Representatives on the Deanery Synod:

Max Philbrick, Monica Philbrick, Jennifer Wright

Elected Members:

Jon Williams	David McEwan	David Preece	
Pauline Bennett	Edward Pybus	Ian Graves	Kate Jenkins
Anne King Lewis			

Co-opted	Cliff Wright	Treasurer
	Carol Moffatt	Minute Secretary

It is a requirement by law that a Standing Committee is appointed. It sets the agenda for the PCC meeting and deals with business in between meetings.

Members: Vicar, Assistant Curates, Churchwardens, Treasurer, Kate Jenkins and David Preece.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

7 meetings of the PCC and 8 of the Standing Committee were held during the last year, some on zoom and some face to face. The APCM was postponed and held on 13th September. Despite covid the PCC has still been very busy throughout the year with a range of topics discussed. Despite the last APCM being later this review covers March 2020 to March 2021 but only covers material which is not reported on in other reports in this booklet. More detail may be found in the Minute file available at the back of church and on the website.

TOPICS COVERED

As well as our regular business, reports of which are included elsewhere in this report. We have also discussed:

- Refurbishment of the Organ and the appointment of Organists
- Safeguarding Dashboard
- Patterns of worship – in particular how we would open up after covid, what our worship may look like under restrictions.
- Legacies
- Broadband
- On line giving
- Ministry of Welcome



The first recordings from the vicarage – March 2020



Rev'd Sam Lohead, ordained deacon at Hexham Abbey.



Rev'd Lynn Caudwell, ordained priest at St. Andrew's Church.

CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT:

Linda Hunter and Jean Wilks

In Autumn 2020, Mike Collins stood down after 4½ years as Churchwarden. We are grateful to him for all his work over that time. Jean stepped into his shoes and is steadily learning the job. After 11 years as Churchwarden, Linda will stand down in May 2021 to take up her new journey as an Ordinand. So, it's a time of change for us all.

As ever, we thank our Ministry team for their tireless work and enthusiasm. We also thank their partners and families for supporting them in all the work that they do. It has been good to welcome Sam Lohead, our new Assistant Curate, who quickly rose to the extra challenge of joining a new parish during a pandemic and lockdown. For all of the team, ministry during Covid-19 has been full of new challenges; a closed church increased their workload rather than reduced it, and they have all enthusiastically embraced the brave new world of on-line broadcasting.

Covid safety has been a major part of the Churchwardens' year too. We have worked hard on risk assessments, seating plans, timetables, booking systems, pew cleaning and other procedures to make our church as safe as it can be for all who visit and worship here.

We are responsible for maintaining the church building and property, and for addressing health and safety issues, and we are active members of the Maintenance Committee. This has included raising grant income to automate the church clock, applying for Faculty to automate the clock and install broadband, liaising with our insurers, and commissioning an architect to conduct the quinquennial inspection of our two churches.

We would like to thank everyone involved in all the different tasks, rotas and committees to ensure that things run smoothly for all our different services and activities. There are far too many of you to mention by name, but we really do appreciate all that you do.

HALTON ST. OSWALD

Edward Pybus

Little did we know at the time of our service on 1 March last year that it would be seven months before we would be seeing each other again at Halton. Lockdown intervened before the end of that March and our services were suspended until the following October and then again from early January to mid-March this year.

Services with celebration of Holy Communion resumed last October with our Harvest Thanksgiving and continued with our regular monthly (1st Sunday) service in November and December and our service on Christmas Day. There was one more service at the beginning of January before the second lockdown and then another suspension until the middle of March which served as preparation for Easter and was especially welcome.

All the services have been conducted by our Vicar, Canon David Kennedy, save on Christmas Day when the celebrant was our Assistant Curate, Rev'd Lynn Caudwell. Lynn also preached in October and our other Assistant Curate, Rev'd Sam Lohead, in November. Attendance on Christmas Day at 21 was reduced by reason of lockdown conditions and at other services has held steady at an average 14. All the services have had special significance as we have come to realise, the constraints of social distancing and the curtailment of music notwithstanding, what we are missing when they cannot be held. We are ever grateful to David, Lynn and Sam for the spiritual strength and support which they bring to us and which have been so much needed in the solitary months of lockdown. The large number of comments written in the Visitors Book, all appreciative and many inspiring too, would indicate that there have been more visitors than ever over the year, another manifestation perhaps of the lockdown and the pressing need we all feel to break its hold on us.

Day to day arrangements continue as before. Most particularly, Suzette Milne orders the regular internal cleaning of the church and a flower rota and Sir Hugh Blackett the essential external maintenance of the church and the churchyard including the extensive mowing. We are deeply grateful to them and to all those who help.

Parish Safeguarding Team

Parish Safeguarding Officer	Mandy Norton	Tel: 01434 632585
Safer Recruitment Officer	Richard Adams.	Tel: 01434 634869
Asst PSO (Admin)	Linda E Hunter	Tel: 01434 633742

'The Church of England is committed to the safeguarding, care and nurture of everyone within the church community so that all can flourish in faith and know the love of God.

We all have a responsibility to care for one another, and to keep people safe from harm, and it is especially important that children and vulnerable adults are protected.'

Quote from the Church of England website.

Here in St. Andrew's and Halton we need to remember that we are all responsible for keeping each other safe. Mandy is always available to talk to if you have any safeguarding concerns. She can also point you in right direction if you need any information. Richard looks after the recruitment paperwork in particular the Volunteer forms and on-line DBS checks, new and renewals.

All those involved in roles which require Safeguarding training have participated in the appropriate course for their role - Basic Awareness, Foundation or Leadership. Basic Awareness training is available for any interested person through the on-line training portal, if you want to find out more look on the C of E Safeguarding training page.

Safeguarding is on the agenda of every PCC meeting and we try to keep as up to date as possible with all the current legislation and guidance. Our Safeguarding policy is updated in line with the National guidance annually, and agreed at our October PCC meeting. We have a parish Domestic Abuse policy. Leaflets about Domestic abuse have been produced and are available at the back of the church. We have a Social Media policy and are signed up to the Church of England digital charter to help make social media and the web more widely positive places for conversations to happen. We are using the new safeguarding dashboard.

For further information please go to the Diocese of Newcastle website

www.newcastle.anglican.org/safeguarding

and the Church of England Safeguarding Page

www.churchofengland.org/more/safeguarding

FABRIC, GOODS AND ORNAMENTS OF THE CHURCH

Michael Rae and Jon Williams

Maintenance Committee

Jean Wilks

Churchwarden

The fabric of the Church is in serviceable condition, and all goods and ornaments are as required for worship and events to take place in both St. Andrew's and St. Oswald's.

Quinquennial inspection.

The last inspections were in 2015 for St Andrew's and 2016 for Halton. The next inspection of both churches, and the cottage, will take place during 2021.

Statutory Requirements.

During the year we have had inspection of the fire extinguishers and boilers, and regular inspections of ladders. Inspection of the alarm system has been arranged.

St. Andrew's Church: Maintenance and Works undertaken:

- Pointing repairs were done in August and April.
- Memorial Garden: our contractor carries out new inscriptions each Summer.
- Churchyard Maintenance: We have a close working relationship with the Parish Council who have responsibility for the church yard, including grass cutting and safety of footpaths.

St. Andrew's Church: works planned.

- Church Clock: the annual maintenance inspection was delayed due to Covid-19, but will take place later in 2021 at the same time as the clock automation.
- Repairs are needed to North Transept roof, following water ingress in wet weather. Quotes and permission have been obtained, and a contractor instructed.
- Gutters and gullies: quotes for cleaning and repainting have been obtained, and a contractor instructed.
- The Atkinson memorial door shattered without warning in the first week of April. We are urgently working on a permanent replacement, in conjunction with our insurers and the Atkinson family.

Application was made in February 2021 for Faculty (church planning permission) for three projects. Faculty was granted in April 2021, and work will be completed soon:

- Automatic winding for the church clock. This will avoid the need for the clock to be manually wound three times a week. It is fully funded by grant aid from Corbridge Parish Council, Corbridge W.I., Corbridge Village Trust, Catherine Cookson Trust, Allchurches Trust, and Ecclesiastical Trust; we are very grateful to them all.
- Installing broadband in the church, enabling us to live-stream services and events, and allowing people to take part in services on-line. A cable will enter the church through the choir vestry, leading to a broadband router in a concealed position in the Baptistry.
- Displaying an icon in the Sanctuary. This is a Romanian icon of St Andrew, donated to the parish in 2012 by Sir Miles Irving.

St Andrew's Cottage

- Replacement of the roof was completed in Spring 2020.
- There is damp in the cottage walls and kitchen floor. Some external damp was caused by a leak, now repaired. Internally, damp is being dried out gradually by a dehumidifier. We have had a damp survey done, and are considering the cost and implications of some of the recommendations.
- The boiler may need replacing soon.
- We are very grateful to Warwick and Suzette Milne who continue to keep the cottage garden tidy.

St Oswald's, Halton

- Pointing to the east gable was completed in August.
- The path to the church door has been cleared.

Contract Renewal:

Electrical contracts for St. Andrew's, Halton and the Cottage have now been fixed until 2023. The cottage gas contract has been fixed until 2024. The Church gas contract runs until 2025.

Health and Safety:

A risk assessment is always carried out when we carry out a new event. During covid it was reviewed regularly. Health and Safety action plans for both St. Andrew's' and St. Oswald's are in place. Our health & safety audit checklist was reviewed this year and all policies will be looked

at over the coming year.

Security Review:

If you have a key and you are no longer in the role you received it for, please return to the Churchwardens. We are continually monitoring our security arrangements and take advice from our insurers.

THANK YOU.

The fabric of our churches is well looked after and we are extremely grateful to all those who contribute to this in any way, either in person or financially. It is impossible to thank all those who play a part in this. Many people are involved. Thank you to all volunteers.

Churchwarden's note: We are especially indebted to the Michael and Jon for all their work.



Mike Collins winding the clock – thanks to the winding team

MISSION AND MINISTRY

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES

JUNIOR CHURCH

Louise Stubbs, Leader

Due to the onset of the coronavirus pandemic and the enforced closures of our Church, (at various times during March 2020 to March 2021) we have been unable to make any provision for Junior Church.

Easter Sunday (12.4.20)

The traditional egg hunt and Easter activities for the children were also cancelled, however, chocolate eggs were made available, in Church, throughout the Easter period. There were a considerable number of eggs and they all disappeared, at some point, over Easter! The Easter garden was in place outside the main entrance to Church. Unfortunately, the school were, once again, unable to help with this activity but David and Margaret Preece kindly carried on to construct the garden. Our grateful thanks to them both.

Christmas at the Crib (24.12.20)

Ninety adults and forty-five children attended this event. Prior to the day, 200 Christmas activity bags were assembled, in Church, by volunteers. The contents were substantial with the aim of keeping children focused and occupied throughout Christmas. The bags were collected from Church and members of the congregation took bags to give to relatives or people living in their vicinity.

MESSY CHURCH

Messy Church is now in its eleventh year and reflecting on a somewhat different year, as far as maintaining our provision for our Messy Church families. At the start of the pandemic the Messy Church team were able to have a few meetings, in person, at the Church. It was then decided 'ZOOM' meetings would be the way forward. The meetings were well attended by the team members and for the 'uninitiated', mastering the technology was a challenge at first but one which we all mastered! The same format as previously (pre-pandemic) was adapted to enable us to present everything online. We were able to include an introduction to the theme and or story, craft activities, songs and prayers. Occasionally, a physical activity was also included which could be carried out in the home or garden environment. We were delighted to have the support of some Messy Church families who helped the team by contributing videos of activities filmed at home, which were very entertaining. Messy Church 'ZOOM' planning meetings have continued to take place, to plan for our themes, focused around the Church calendar.

Canon. David Kennedy, Rev'd. Lynn Caudwell and Rev'd. Sam Lohead attend our meetings whenever they are available. They have all regularly had a role in the videos produced and we value their input. Linda Hunter (Lay Minister) continues to lead the team and encourages all the team in ensuring Messy Church continues to survive and thrive despite the current situation. (Linda also regularly contributes to the video presentations) We all appreciate her enthusiasm, patience and understanding. Thank you, Linda.

Some of the themes we have addressed have included; Easter activities in 2020, Testing Times, Fish related Bible stories (This prompted a fish outline which was then covered with decorated pebbles brought by Messy Church team, our Messy Church families and members of the general public). Decorated pebbles were consequently laid out in the Church grounds and were greatly admired. One of the pebbles had an amazing likeness of Canon. David Kennedy which was expertly painted! Peter in prison, Saints, it's a mystery, Light, Faith (Trusting in God), Breaking out! (Easter theme including a resurrection trail in the Churchyard, 2021) Viewing figures for these presentations have varied considerably between 204 and 31. *The videos for all these presentations can be viewed on the St. Andrew's You Tube channel.

At this point in my report, I would like to thank all the members of the Messy Church team whose dedication throughout these difficult times have enabled us to maintain the Messy Church provision. A special thank you must also go to Max Philbrick. He has been responsible for collating/ editing all the activities and videos submitted by the team, Max has continued to do this every month, since we began to present Messy Church online. The end product is always so expertly presented and his skills are greatly appreciated. Thank you, Max.

Hopefully, and in the not-too-distant future, we may be able to meet up in person with our team and Messy Church families but in the meantime our thoughts and prayers are with them all.





OUTSIDE MISSION AND GIVING: 'TAKE 5'

Rev'd Lynn Caudwell

Lynn Caudwell was asked to set up a group to consider how to distribute our planned giving in line with our mission statement. Currently the members of the group are Richard Adams, Anne King-Lewis, Coleen Petrie, Max and Monica Philbrick and Jennifer Wright. We will be adding to that number as the year goes on.

We engaged in an on-line process of collaboration and established a decision-making framework, based upon the 5 Marks of Mission. This helped us to form a rationale as we considered how we could encourage more missional awareness in the congregation through supporting various projects, which were approved by the PCC. The result is a group calling itself "Take 5" and each member acts as a champion for one of the 5 different projects. The projects have a variety of emphases both in terms of the 5 marks of mission, geographical reach and potential practical involvement. So far, we have created some background documents on the various projects with a recognisable logo. A prayer diary is continually updated and cycles around the five projects in order to raise awareness through the weekly intercessions. These documents are available for all to read on the website. We are in the process of developing material for a church notice board. The Eco church project (Mark of mission 5) is forming a subcommittee in order to take forward a church survey on how we can improve our environmental awareness and become more carbon neutral as a church community.



The only opportunities to sing over the last 12 months have been between the two lockdowns, and briefly at Christmas. Our heartfelt thanks are due to Jean Wilks, our indefatigable choir secretary who has not only produced a constant issue of emails but as acted as the choir's Zoom Meister, hosting the regular Friday on-line chats, which have gone a long way to maintaining the esprit de corps.

Leading up to Christmas we were able to have some limited rehearsal time and produced a recording of the Christmas Carol service which was made available on line. We are very grateful to Ian Wylie who patiently recorded, filmed and edited the video.

On the Sunday before Christmas Eve and on Christmas Eve we were joined by members of Hexham Brass for two open air services (which despite the weather on the Sunday) were well attended. Christmas Eve particularly was a memorable service, singing in the heart of the village in the churchyard festooned with festive lights. We are grateful to Roger Carr of Hexham Brass for his help and support and assembling his brass-playing colleagues.

With the slight relaxing of restrictions, we are now singing as a small group on Sunday Mornings, and we are all looking forward to when we can re-start rehearsals, rediscover our repertoire and, most importantly, join in with the congregation.

We have said goodbye to Paul Hagger (although I am sure it should be au revoir) who after an association with the choir for more than 20 years has moved south to be nearer his grandchildren.

Sadly, the choir was honoured to sing at the funeral of Paul Davidson, who sang with us for several years until he became increasingly unwell. I personally would like to thank all the choir for rallying round and supporting Paul until it became too difficult for him. His enthusiasm and engaging smile will remain in our memories.

Musically, the biggest significant event during the last year has been the completion of the restoration of the organ, (details are covered elsewhere), and as we slowly emerge from the pandemic, we will begin to exploit in full its glorious new sound and increased range of voices.

Finally, after a very long association with St Andrew's as both organist and choirmaster John Ross has decided to retire for health reasons. We are delighted that he has now fully recovered from a

very serious operation, and equally delighted that he has accepted the post of Organist Emeritus, and we look forward to his occasional guest appearance in the future.

And to end on something very exciting: John Roper has accepted the shared post of organist. His first Sunday will be 9th May, and with Marc Bryant and the Choir we look forward to a long and inspiring association as we seek to develop the music of St Andrew's and leave the pandemic behind us.



Carols for All in the churchyard.



BOOK GROUP

Rev'd Lynn Caudwell

After an initial delay following the disruption of the first lockdown, six members of the original book group decided to continue on zoom with the book series 'Sensible Shoes'. We have met weekly, and it has proved to be a source of real encouragement and spiritual formation for all those taking part. This group has continued on throughout the year and are now completing book 3 with plans to go onto the final book, starting in May. A second group has formed and is finishing book 1 with plans to go on with the series. Again, this second group has found it to be a relationally rewarding and spiritually significant exercise. Jennifer Wright, one of the members of the first group, is helping to co-lead the second group with Lynn Caudwell. There are plans to offer this study to those who would like to meet in person when things open up again. We are also hoping that leaders will emerge from both groups to see this going forward in the coming year.

HOME GROUP

Anne King-Lewis, Max Philbrick, Paul Morris.

We all wondered how we would manage to continue Home Group throughout the Covid restrictions, but we soon became accustomed to using Zoom and perhaps were able to be more relaxed and open in our discussions and our fellowship together certainly deepened and grew. A non-Zooming member was kept involved by a telephone call after each meeting. Here are some comments from the group:

"I have never belonged to a home group before and since joining have looked forward to meeting other Christians and sharing our Faith together."

"It's 'body-building' in Christ if you like. Home group gives us space to think as we all search God's Word, ask questions, air doubts and be vulnerable with one another. In the dark days of Covid, I have been very grateful for the group. It helped enormously to have Christian fellowship."

"Home groups help the individual to grow in their Christian faith."

"It has been really good to share our faith in a more meaningful personal way without fear of criticism."

We have been able to share more deeply with Methodist friends and also with others who have moved out of the area. The studies have been led in a conversational style which has meant they are more informal and relaxed. Any who would like to join us would be most welcome!!

NORTHERN SAINTS TRAILS

Rev'd Sam Lochhead

Over Lent St Andrew's hosted a series of talks and reflections on Zoom based around the Northern Saints Trails. The trails comprise six walking routes exploring the North East's cultural, historical and spiritual landscape.

We were guided along the routes by our own Jan Williams - who shared both her deep knowledge of the region's history as well as a sense of how that history informs and shapes the region today.

Each week Jan focused on one of the routes, highlighting significant landmarks and exploring the stories behind many of the churches found on each of the trails.

Alongside this, each route also explored a different theme - such as the Way of the Sea which emphasised the region's ecological significance and conservation, or the Way of Life which offered a chance to consider the significance of many kinds of craftsmanship in the region's history. As part of this, at the end of each talk Sam offered a short reflection, inspired by what Jan had spoken about and also by various texts or images from the Christian tradition.

Together these talks and reflections offered a slightly different way of approaching Lent - thinking about our place in the world around us, and how our region's very rich history, culture, and spirituality informs our way of life, our relationships with others and our relationship with God.

It was a real delight to see how much enthusiasm the talks generated - it has been great to be able to offer these talks not just to the congregation at St Andrew's, but also to the wider community and even further afield - having guests join us from as far away as Germany and Spain! We hope to be able to build on all this in the future - when restrictions allow - by walking some of the more local parts of the routes together. With any luck, it will be a chance to translate all the virtual pilgrimages of Lent (just short of 200 miles in total!) into some communal pilgrimages later in 2021.



St Andrew's Church,
Corbridge



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Linda E Hunter, Leader

The year 2020 has been a different year for Women's Fellowship as we have not met face to face since February 2020, despite that we have tried as best as we can to keep in touch with one another. For those who were able, we have had zoom meetings when we have had the opportunity, through breakout rooms to get to know one another a little more. Jan Williams gave us a talk about being a Blue Badge Guide and our Lent service took place over zoom too. The committee have met regularly and we are currently reviewing our timing and place of meeting. If you would like to join, please do get in touch. Thank you to Mary Rae and Mary Gray who retired from the committee. Welcome to Janet Kennedy who has joined the committee. Special thanks to Rosemary Rayfield, Sheila Neilson, Liz Buckley, Elsie Fletcher and Janet Kennedy, who have all helped to keep things running smoothly.

PRAYER GROUP

Jennifer Wright

The prayer group has kept meeting every Thursday morning during the pandemic using the on-line facility of Zoom. We continue to pray for current issues relevant to our lives here in Corbridge as well as those relating to the country and the rest of the world.

We pray for the work of the Ministry team and all of the groups working within our church including for the regular church services, Messy Church, book groups, home group, YouTube services etc. We also pray for people we know of who are unwell, or have asked for us to pray about their particular needs.

In addition, we remember those we have chosen to support financially through the "Take 5" initiative. This includes:

- Stop Gap - helping Hexham's homeless.
- The Lighthouse Project- a church in Byker where they are working to make their church into not only a place of worship but also a flexible modern space for the community, especially the young people.
- CMS (Church Mission Society) - for Phil and Sylvie Good in Lebanon and their work with Emil and Reem Bourizk who run a school for Syrian refugee children.
- Getachew and his family in his work as a Bible translator in Ethiopia.
- The Eco Church programme involving St Andrew's in environmental issues and looking at ways we can get involved as a church.

We all value and enjoy the time together each week, and when we are allowed to meet in person again, we hope to resume our meetings in church.

OUTREACH

FOODBANK

Monica Philbrick

Covid has of course affected how many donations we have picked up from the church, and how easy it has been for people to drop them off. But despite these limitations the Food Bank in Hexham has been at work!

500 households in the area of Hexham, Haltwhistle and Prudhoe have received parcels. The Food Bank set up a helpline and delivery service in March 2020, rather than people visiting their Haugh Lane site. 150 personalised parcels are delivered each week.... a total of 6,000 parcels and 6,000 miles from March – September 2020. They estimate that £90,000 worth of food has been donated in that time.

For more really interesting information do look at their website - and read their annual report! westnorthumberlandfoodbank.org.uk.

CHURCH WELCOMERS and GUIDES

Elizabeth Collins, Convenor

Over the last year it has not been possible for the Church Guides to be present in St. Andrew's. We hope that later in 2021 we may be able to start up again.

St. Andrew's is mentioned on the National Churches Trust – explore churches website. The link below will take you onto the website.

<https://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/explore-churches/st-andrew-corbridge>



ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION

Simon Hunter

Over the last year our communication has become increasingly important. We have sent out a weekly church email which has helped to keep everyone up to date. It has provided links to the YouTube services, the bulletin, reflection, a letter from David, orders of services, the monthly Messy Church YouTube video and other relevant information. In addition, some members of the congregation have received paper copies of the information emailed out.

The increased use of social media, smart phones and mobiles devices means it is essential to be able to communicate with as many people as possible.

Website: Each week the website is updated with the Sunday service resources and also the link to the YouTube channel. We are streaming on our YouTube channel at 10.00am. each Sunday. You can access it via the Church website, the weekly email, or directly via YouTube: St. Andrew's Church, Corbridge. You can sign up to the weekly email via the website.

Website: www.corbridgechurch.org.uk

Facebook: We have two Facebook pages: Corbridge Church and Corbridge Church Families

and a twitter account: Corbridge Church tweets@CorbridgeChurc1

At the main festive seasons i.e., Advent and Christmas, Lent and Easter we produce a booklet containing all the relevant service and event information. Paper copies are available along with electronic ones

We would welcome contribution for the News and Events section these can be emailed to sahunter@corbridgechurch.org.uk.

PARISH NEWS

Max Philbrick

With so few special events and activities to advertise and then report on, the Parish News faltered during the first lockdown in 2020, and then ceased publication after July.

Anticipating the emergence from lockdown in spring and summer 2021, the Parish News re-appeared in April 2021. As well as reporting forthcoming events, we look forward to again sharing contributions from members of St Andrew's (and Halton), so articles and photos are always welcome. Please give or send them to max.philbrick@gmx.co.uk

EVENTS & FUNDRAISING

EVENTS

Linda E Hunter and Jean Wilks

A small team comprising Mary Oswell, Jenny Watson, Coleen Petrie, Gail Williams and ourselves was set up to oversee the musical events and we had some interesting concerts planned for 2020. We began our lunchtime music series with an organ recital by Marc Bryant, followed by a piano recital by Cristo Harijan, we then had to stop the series in church. We were very grateful to Ian Wylie who recorded a concert by Deborah Thorne and a concert by Faye Robinson accompanied by Sarah Robinson which went out via facebook.



The Chamber Music Festival is back in July and we hope to commence lunchtime musical concerts after that. We have further plans for late Summer and the Autumn.

FUNDRAISING

Thanks to Suzette and Warwick for arranging the Grand Draw which brought in over £1,000.

CHURCH COTTAGE

Suzette Milne, Convenor

This year we have not had any lets at all. The cottage is in need of considerable work, you will have seen that reported elsewhere in this report.

Special thanks to Michael Rae for his willingness to help when needed.

CHURCH FLOWERS

Sheila Goldsworthy, Convenor

During lockdown we were unable to come into church to arrange flowers. Since reopening we have tried hard to keep the church looking cheerful.

If there are flower arrangers, water and sort ladies who would like to join our teams, please contact Sheila Goldsworthy 632595. A huge "Thank You" for all the donations you give to the Easter Box and the Christmas donation boxes.



David after recording his VE 75 day prayers and message.

CORBRIDGE CHURCH OF ENGLAND AIDED FIRST SCHOOL

Gayle Baty, Chair of Governors / Jennifer Ainsley, Head Teacher

Parochial Church Council (PCC) Annual Report



Current number on roll	144	% of SEND pupils (Special Education Need / disability)	8
Age range of pupils	3-9	% of disadvantaged pupils	18

Our annual report this year reports on a year like no other, but as Executive Headteacher of Corbridge and Broomhaugh First Schools I continue to be proud to work with a team of fully dedicated staff and governors to ensure the best education and social experiences for our children, enabling them to flourish and be self-confident, proud members of their community. This has never been truer than over the past 18 months as we have engaged in a blend of in-school learning as well as remote and blended learning for our children and their families. We are dedicated and committed to seeing our school thrive.

We welcomed a more 'normal' autumn term and both embraced and enjoyed having all children back in school where they belong. We were thrilled with how well our families had juggled their working commitments to continue to support us in providing an excellent, broad curriculum, even in challenging times. Unfortunately, another lockdown in January meant we had to go back to managing the various situations for key workers and families at home but again, we are so proud of staff, children and their families for all they have done. This time around we were able to be much more prepared and engagement levels were very high through our online Google Classroom provision.

Our staff team have been, and continue to be, fantastic and have continually adapted to the changing circumstances, as have we all, and we are very proud of the provision our children have continued to receive. We truly hope that the rest of this academic year and beyond will continue to be stable, with school fully open allowing the children to flourish and take their place as the heart of the school.

We are currently in the process of consulting on making our soft federation arrangement of shared leadership formal, through forming a hard federation with Broomhaugh C of E First School. We have seen so many positive benefits in working together and know that this has enabled us to be stronger. We look forward to continuing this positive relationship moving forwards.

STAFFING UPDATES

In September 2021 we will also be welcoming a new Executive Deputy Head Teacher who will be appointed in the coming weeks. Mrs Sarah Gray will be leaving us at the end of the summer term as she is moving to Dubai with her family to begin a new chapter of their lives. There is no question her skills and amazing presence will be a huge miss in school as she has been a driving force in so many accomplishments for our schools over the last two years. We cannot thank her enough for all she has done and will continue to achieve, over this final summer we have together. We wish her all the best for her new adventure overseas.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

The Shared Leadership of Broomhaugh and Corbridge Church of England First Schools have now been in place for 2 years. Children from both schools continue to benefit through additional experiences and shared resources. This year has seen both schools invest in staff development through training staff as Forest School leaders and the organisation of character education through Commando Joe's. We have also implemented new English resources and planning support which re-focusses our teaching on the power and love of reading. All feedback so far is extremely positive and will have a direct, positive impact for all pupils. We are also thrilled that sports clubs have been able to start back up and to try and compensate a little for what our children have missed; we have provided the opportunity for every child in school to access a free extra-curricular club. We continue to have specialist teaching through sports specialists, music specialists, and ICT technician support. We have also invested further in to our computing resources with the purchase of a half class set of laptops and iPads. The financial savings resulting from the shared leadership and joint procurement have also allowed us to focus the little money we have directly to Page 2 of 2 areas which have clear benefit for our children. Staff continue to benefit from working together and sharing skills across the schools and staff professional development opportunities are enabling us to grow and flourish.

The commitment and dedication of the staff team and all those involved in our school community are what continues to make us strong and I extend thanks for all these stake holders.

With God's guidance we strive each day to be the best we can be

Our two Assistant Curates



Sam leading the VJ75 prayers.



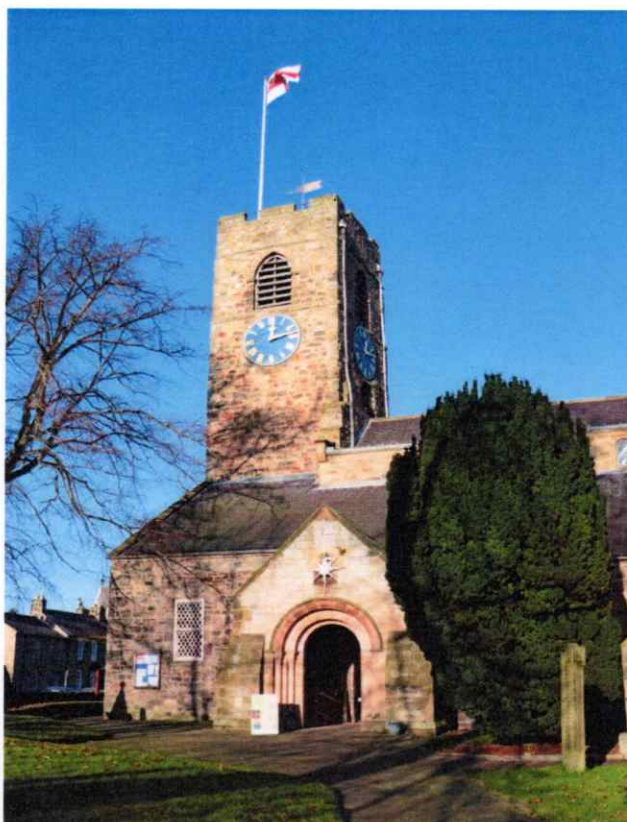
Lynn and Simon

Photographs: Ian Wylie, Janet Kennedy, Linda E Hunter.

The Parish of St Andrew's, Corbridge with St Oswald, Halton and St James, Newton Hall

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31st December 2021



1. Independent Examiner's Report
2. Treasurer's Report
3. Summarised Balance Sheet
4. Summarised Statement of Financial Activities
5. Notes to Financial Statements
6. Grants & Donations

Parochial Church Council of Corbridge, with Halton and Newton Hall.

TREASURER'S REPORT

For the year ending 31st December 2021

1. Summary

The net movement in funds last year was a positive £26,733 compared to a deficit of £21,422 for 2020. The constituent parts of the result are shown below:

	£000's
Surplus on Routine Operating Activities	17.9
Capital Projects	-0.2
Improvement in Value of Investments	8.1
Legacies Received	1.0
 Net Movement in Funds	 26.7

It is important to note that payments to PCC charities under the 2021 programme were delayed and that the "Surplus on Routine Operating Activities" shown above is consequently overstated by £7,600. Correction of this timing problem in 2022 will produce the opposite effect.

2. Main Features

The effects of the pandemic were with us all of the way through the year but even after discounting the timing problem with charitable payments, there were a number of very positive features:

- 2.1 The value of personal giving, including gift aid, increased by around 20% compared to 2020. An excellent response to the annual appeal was a major factor here.
- 2.2 There were strong recoveries in the net income received from Fundraising Activities notably the Christmas Tree Festival, Donations and Parish Fees with improvements over the previous year of £11,800, £7,600 and £2,200 respectively.
- 2.3 The improvement of £8,100 in the value of our Charifund investment was a welcome recovery of the ground we lost (£7,600) in 2020. These are obviously turbulent times, however, and future fluctuations can be expected.
- 2.4 Our major capital job, the Organ Refurbishment project, together with the much smaller clock winding project were satisfactorily concluded with both jobs fully funded by specific appeal, grants and gift aid.
- 2.5 The introduction of broadband into the church and a robust card reader has already demonstrated material benefits and is essential to future financing as the use of cash falls away.
- 2.6 At the end of the year, we had Reserves of £209,000 which is virtually uncommitted. This includes, however, a legacy of £66,000 which has been earmarked for work required on St Andrew's Cottage.

3. Conclusion

Even though we were still handicapped by lockdowns and other restrictions, the financial results for 2021 provided a happy contrast to the year before and a number of very positive features are mentioned above. With the effects of the pandemic hopefully continuing to diminish, it would be tempting to look forward with some confidence. These are extraordinarily difficult and unpredictable times, however, and complacency would be a mistake. We will undoubtedly have future significant financial challenges to face.

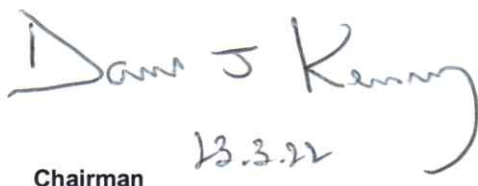
Parocial Church Council of Corbridge with Halton and Newton Hall


SUMMARISED BALANCE SHEET – at 31st December 2021

	Note	2021 £	2020 £
INVESTMENTS			
Investment assets	5		
CBF Fund (CCLA 1S 853.05 shares)		19977	17,477
M & G Fund (3033 units)		47200	41,630
		67176	59,107
CURRENT ASSETS			
CBF Fund (CCLA 1D + CCLA 2D)		11015	11,009
Cash at bank and in hand	7	122474	111,054
Halton General		7141	6,803
		140630	128,866
<u>ADD</u> ACCRUED INCOME & PREPAYMENTS	6	8660	2,972
<u>LESS</u> LIABILITIES FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR	8	7511	8,723
NET CURRENT ASSETS		141778	123,114
NET ASSETS		208955	182,221
FUNDS			
Unrestricted	10	155938	131,838
Restricted		53017	50,383
		208955	182,221

The attached notes form part of these financial statements.

Approved by the PCC on
and signed on their behalf


Chairman 13.3.22


Treasurer 13.3.22

Parochial Church Council of Corbridge, with Halton and Newton Hall

SUMMARISED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
– for the year ending 31st December 2021

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS 2021 £	2020 £
INCOME & ENDOWMENTS					
Incoming resources from donors	2a	103,743	250	103993	85,795
Other voluntary income resources	2b	7,154	53,463	60617	47,509
Income from charitable and ancilliary trading	2c	5,358	11,863	17221	11,066
Other ordinary incoming resources	2d	0	1,097	1097	1,700
Extraordinary Income	2e	0	0	0	0
Income from investments	2f	2,752	5	2757	2,568
Total Income & Endowments excl Legacies		119,008	66,678	185686	148,638
EXPENDITURE					
Grants	3a	250	1,327	1577	7,608
Activities related to the activities of church	3b	93,108	34,452	127560	121,141
Fund-raising and publicity	3c	0	976	976	184
Church management and administration	3d	5,481	0	5481	4,035
Repairs & Maintenance	3e	0	2,629	2629	0
Projects	3f	0	29,799	29799	109,801
Expenditure in relation to prior years		0	0	0	0
Total Expenditure		98,839	69,183	168022	242,768
Legacies Received	2g	0	1,000	1000	80,322
Net Income/Expenditure (-)		20,168	-1,505	18664	-13,808
Transfers Between Funds		-4,138	4,138	0	0
Other Recognised Gains/Losses (-)					
Gains/Losses (-) on Investments		8,070	0	8070	-7,614
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		24,100	2,634	26733	-21,422
BALANCES BROUGHT FWD AT 1 JAN 2020		131,838	50,383	182221	203,643
BALANCES CARRIED FWD AT 31 DECEMBER 2021		155,938	53,017	208955	182,221

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2011 together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historic cost convention.

Scope

The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They include the transactions of directly related activities but do not include the transactions of any church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Funds

Restricted funds are maintained to ensure that donations or contributions made by donors for specific purposes are properly applied. Restricted funds are set up and removed at the direction of PCC. Unrestricted funds are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC.

Incoming Resources

Voluntary income and capital resources

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.

Planned giving receivable is recognised only when received.

Income tax recoverable on covenants/gift aid donations is recognised in the year in which it applies.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement and the income from fund raising activities is accounted for gross.

Sales of books, magazines, postcards, etc. from the church bookstall are accounted for gross.

Income will be accrued as appropriate.

Other ordinary income

Rental income from the letting of church premises is recognised when the rental is due.

Income from investments

Dividends and interest are accounted for when receivable. Tax recoverable on such income is recognised in the same accounting year.

Resources expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. All costs have been directly attributed to the expenditure categories used in the statement of financial activities. The church is not registered for VAT, accordingly expenditure is shown gross of unrecoverable VAT.

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

The parish share is accounted for when payable. Any share unpaid at 31 December is provided for in these accounts as an operational (though not a legal) liability and is shown as a creditor in the Balance Sheet.

Fixed assets

Consecrated land and buildings and church furnishings

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993.

No value is placed on movable furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which requires a faculty for disposal since the PCC considers this an inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or benefice buildings and movable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvements, is written off as expenditure in the SOFA and separately disclosed.

Investments

Investments are included at market value at 31 December. The statement of financial activity includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluations and disposals during the year.

Net current assets

Current Assets include cash held on deposit, either with the CBF Church of England Funds, at the bank or in hand.

Amounts owing to, or prepaid by, PCC at 31st December are shown as "Accrued Income & Prepayments".

Amounts which have not been invoiced by service providers but are owed by PCC are shown as "Liabilities Falling Due Within One Year"

2. INCOME & ENDOWMENTS

		<i>Unrestricted Income</i>	<i>Restricted Income</i>	<i>TOTAL FUNDS</i>	
		<i>£</i>		<i>2021</i>	<i>2020</i>
		<i>£</i>		<i>£</i>	<i>£</i>
Incoming resources from donors					
2a	Bankers orders to Personal Giving account	77,180	0	77180	64,323
	Tax refunds from gift aid.	21,240	0	21240	16,732
	Planned giving with weekly envelopes	0	0	0	545
	Cash collections at all services	5,323	250	5573	4,195
Total: 2a		103,743	250	103993	85,795
Other voluntary income resources					
2b	Donations	200	11,061	11261	4,764
	Votive Candles/Literature/Wallbox	0	2,778	2778	1,852
	Other Fund raising	6,954	19,575	26529	6,948
	Organ Appeal	0	19,712	19712	33,944
Halton 2b	Church Box	0	338	338	0
Total: 2b		7,154	53,463	60617	47,509
Income from charitable & ancillary trading					
2c	Fees	5,358	10,848	16206	10,589
	Hire of Church/Cottage	0	1,015	1015	477
Total: 2c		5,358	11,863	17221	11,066
Other ordinary incoming resources					
2d	Funeral collections	0	950	950	1,208
	Special collections	0	147	147	491
Total: 2d		0	1,097	1097	1,700
Extraordinary items					
2e		0	0	0	0
Total: 2e		0	0	0	0
Income from investments					
2f	Dividends and interest	2,752	5	2757	2,568
Total: 2f		2,752	5	2757	2,568
Total incoming resources before Legacies: 2a-f		119,008	66,678	185686	148,638
Legacies 2g	Total: 2g	0	1,000	1000	80,322
Total incoming resources: 2a-g		119,008	67,678	186686	228,960

3. EXPENDITURE

		<i>Unrestricted Expenditure</i>	<i>Restricted Expenditure</i>	<i>TOTAL FUNDS</i>	
		<i>£</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>2021</i>	<i>2020</i>
Grants					
3a					
	PCC donations	0	147	147	491
	PCC grants	250	230	480	5,908
	Funeral services	0	950	950	1,208
Total: 3a		250	1,327	1577	7,608
Activities directly related to the activities of the church					
3b					
	Ministry				
	– Parish Share + Dioc Serv Fees	77,998	6,028	84026	83,044
	– Vicarage	3,327	0	3327	3,739
	– Vicar	2,853	0	2853	2,724
	– Other Clergy	7,075	0	7075	5,434
	Church and Services				
	– Building + building insurance	0	16,293	16293	14,260
	– Service requisites	1,855	575	2430	2,165
	– Music				
	Organ/Pianos	0	816	816	55
	Choir	0	906	906	1,150
	Camerata	0	0	0	611
	Organists	0	7,376	7376	5,509
	Messy Church + Women's Fellowship	0	103	103	123
	St Andrew's Cottage	0	2,355	2355	2,099
	Memorial Garden Engraving	0	0	0	227
Total: 3b		93,108	34,452	127560	121,141
Fund-raising and publicity					
3c					
	Cost of events	0	976	976	184
Total: 3c		0	976	976	184
Church management and administration					
3d					
	Copying, stationery and telephone	3,201	0	3201	3,216
	Bank charges + prof fees + misc	2,280	0	2280	819
Total: 3d		5,481	0	5481	4,035
Repairs and maintenance					
3e					
	Miscellaneous		2,629	2629	0
Total: 3e		0	2,629	2629	0
Projects					
3f					
	Cottage Roof	0		0	14,938
	Clock Winding		7,891	7891	0
	Organ Renovation		21,908	21908	89,540
	Cottage Other			0	5,323
Total: 3f		0	29,799	29799	109,801
Total expenditure: 3a–f		98,839	69,183	168022	242,768

4 STAFF COSTS	2021	2020
	£	£
Wages and Salaries	4,271	5,009

During the year, the PCC paid fees for organists and a pianist. None of the recipients were paid more than £50,000. No member of the PCC received any remuneration or benefit during the year.

5 INVESTMENTS

CBF CCLA 1S Investment Fund: Units = 853.05 Historic cost = £3,519. Market value at 31 Dec 2021 = **£19976.81** (31 Dec 2020 = **£17476.69**).

M&G Investment Fund. Units = 3033 Historic cost = £12,000. Market value at 31 Dec 2021 = **£47199.55** (31 Dec 2020 = **£41630.05**).

6 DEBTORS	2021	2020
Accrued Income & Prepayments:		
Gift Aid	3,571	1,205
Insurance Prepaid	1004	980
Parish Fees	893	191
December cash banked in January	2748	596
Hire Fees	444	0
	8660	2,972

Gift Aid tax claimed has been accrued this year. This accrual is in line with guidance provided from PCC accountability and the Charities Act.

7 CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND	2021	2020
Bank		
– Corbridge PCC (Lloyds)	45,092	29,724
– Planned Giving	6,897	3,524
– Corbridge PCC (Barclays)	26,793	14,142
– Womens Fellowship	602	272
– Fabric	43,089	63,386
Petty Cash	1	5
	122,474	111,054

8 LIABILITIES: FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR	2021	2020
Accrued Costs:		
St John Passion - expenses donated in advance	1500	1500
Organist fees	1030	537
Utilities	1546	1098
Expenses	743	593
Prepaid Wedding Fees	946	1304
BT	624	297
Invoices	911	2985
Parish Fees	210	408
	7,511	8,723

9 FUND DETAILS

The church maintains restricted funds for specific short and long term purposes for St Andrew's and Halton as well as those associated with specific fund raising initiatives and donations. Financial transactions in which the church is simply an intermediary, receiving and passing on charitable donations as in the cases of funeral services or "bucket" collections, are also treated as belonging to restricted funds.

10 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUND

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Investments	67,176	0	67,176
Current Assets	85,940	54,690	140,630
Current Debtors	5,515	3,145	8,660
Current Liabilities	(2,693)	(4,818)	(7,511)
	<u>155,938</u>	<u>53,017</u>	<u>208,955</u>

Restricted funds:

	At 1 January 2021 £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Transfers £	At 31 December 2021 £
Projects (Fabric Fund)	37,668	13479	10,520	-308	40,319
Halton	7,188	338	0	0	7,526
Church Music	0	7895	9,098	1,203	0
Building Running Costs	0	16958	19,624	2,995	329
Funerals	0	950	950	0	0
Other Charities	0	147	147	0	0
PCC Charities	0	230	230	0	0
Local Emergency	1,159	0	0	0	1,159
Messy Church	345	20	103	0	262
Vicar/Churchwardens etc	1,206	0	0	0	1,206
Try Praying	0	1000	0	0	1,000
Heritage Boards	736	0	0	0	736
DBF	0	6028	6,028	0	0
Organ Appeal	1,888	19712	21,908	308	0
Other Minor	194	922	575	-60	481
	<u>50,383</u>	<u>67678</u>	<u>69,183</u>	<u>4,138</u>	<u>53,017</u>

Regular income such as standing order receipts, plate collections and parish fees tends to be "unrestricted". This means that the income can be used for any legitimate expenditure incurred subject to normal approval procedures. We carry unrestricted funds which represent the surplus of income over expenditure at any one point in time. These funds can obviously be applied to any legitimate purpose.

When finance which is to be applied to a particular object (for example the Organ Appeal) is received from a donor, it is "restricted" to that purpose. The money has, in effect, been given on condition that it will be spent in that way. Where, however, more money is collected for a particular object than we need, surplus funds can be applied to a purpose which is a "near hit". In the case of the Organ Appeal, for example, this could be some other form of music in the church subject to the approval of PCC. It is not normally possible to hold a negative fund. That would be a situation where we have spent more on a restricted object than we had received. In a case such as that, the shortfall would be made up out of unrestricted funds.

Within our total closing unrestricted funds for 2021 (£156,346), £66,245 came from a legacy. Although not restricted, this generous donation is to be "designated" (set aside) by PCC for specific purposes. Designation in this way allows PCC the flexibility to apply funds where most needed.

PCC Grants & Donations

	2018	2019	2020	2021
	£	£	£	£
Buque Family - Support for medical studies	1160	395		
Christian Aid	117	115		
Royal British Legion	734	328		230
The Children's Society	162			
Reaching The Unreached	876	1725		
Nightstop	876	1725		
Stop Gap	876	1725	1096	
Church Mission Society			1918	
A Rocha UK			250	
The Yohannes family			1644	
Lighthouse Project			1000	
Newcastle Cathedral Renovation Project				250
	<u>4,801</u>	<u>6,012</u>	<u>5,908</u>	<u>480</u>

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, CORBRIDGE

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, CORBRIDGE

I report on the accounts of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31 December 2021 which are attached.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner.

As the members of the Parochial Church Council, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the act) does not apply. It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of the procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 43(7)(b) of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report.

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners and to be found in the church guidance 2011 edition. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Parochial Church Council and a comparison of the accounts presented with these records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanation from you as members concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (a) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
- (i) To keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the act; and
 - (ii) To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act;
- have not been met; or
- (b) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

M. Collins

Mike Collins

Dated: 26/4/22.

Accounts

**The Parish of St. Andrew's Corbridge with St. Oswald, Halton
and Newton Hall.**



ANNUAL REPORT
for year ending
31st March 2021

Incumbent

Canon Dr David J Kennedy

Bank

Lloyds Bank, Priestpopple, Hexham. NE46 1PA

Barclays Bank, Priestpopple, Hexham. NE46 1PA



Parish of Corbridge with Halton and Newton Hall Our Parish Mission Statement

Sharing the length and breadth of the love of Jesus

We are a community of Christians, committed to serve the Living God we know in Jesus Christ. Along with every Church in the Diocese of Newcastle we strive to grow the Church and bring hope

- through worship and prayer that is engaged and holy
- in living out and sharing the Gospel by word and deed
- through reaching out to the entire community by caring for all
- by seeking to grow in faith as Christian disciples
- by welcoming visitors into our buildings and our Church life
- by working in partnership with other Christians in our parish, deanery and diocese

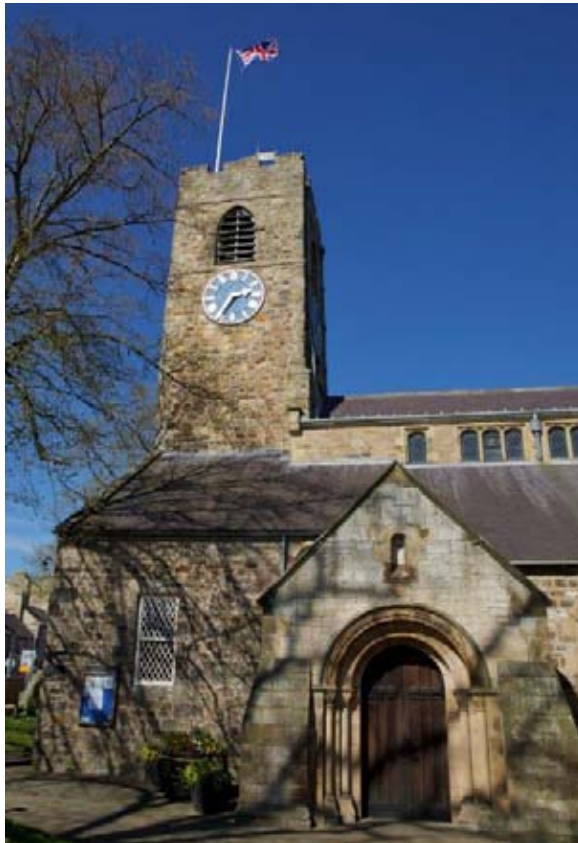
To this end

- our doors are open
- our minds are open
- our hearts are open

Inspired by the example of St Andrew, we strive to bring children, teenagers and adults to Jesus.

July 2019

We are now in lockdown – 23rd March 2020



Our first public service after reopening on 4th July – we welcomed Rev'd Sam Lohead as Assistant Curate to Corbridge.

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**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL CHURCH AND ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETINGS
HELD IN THE CHURCH AT 11.00am ON SUNDAY 13th SEPTEMBER**

PRESENT:

Canon David Kennedy, Rev'd Lynn Caudwell and 34 laity.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Ron and Jane Gold	Barbara and John McNamara	Michael Priestley
Fay Dickinson	Suzette Milne	Edward Pybus
Michael and Mary Rae	Alistair and Kate Jenkins	Rev'd S. Lohead
Janet Kennedy	Rachel Kennedy	
Canon Campbell and Mrs Monica Matthews		

MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL CHURCH AND PAROCHIAL MEETINGS:

Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on Sunday 14th April were approved and accepted as a true record. Proposed by Warwick Milne and seconded by Pauline Bennett. Agreed unanimously. There were no matters arising.

ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS:

The Vicar thanked Linda Hunter and Mike Collins, the present Church Wardens for their unstinting work and support over the past 18 months – he feels blessed to have two exceptional people as wardens.

Mike is to stand down this year and the Vicar thanked him for his years of service as a calm, cheerful and smiling ambassador of St Andrew's, presenting him with a gift of appreciation. Linda Hunter also expressed her thanks for his ready availability and steady hand, particularly during the appointment of the new Vicar. Mike in turn expressed his thanks to the clergy and congregation and said it had been an honour and privilege to serve. The Vicar also expressed gratitude to Linda Hunter who works tirelessly for this Church and others, much of what has been achieved could not have been done without her efforts.

Two nominations were received for the two vacancies, Linda Hunter and Jean Wilks. As there were no further nominations both were re-elected unanimously.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Cliff Wright spoke to the report, recording accurately and consistently the financial situation throughout the year. Looking back over the year would normally give some insight into the coming year. However, this has been no normal year and therefore the accounts do not provide much of a guide to the future.

There have been important highlights through 2019 when in April the Giving Appeal saw a 30% increase in giving; the Organ Appeal launched in October within 2 months had raised more than 50% of the total required, as well as the Wedding Festival, Flower Festival, Music Festival and Christmas Tree Festival all raising considerable sums, as well as two exceptional legacies amounting to £80k. However, the year ends with a small surplus, due in large part to our £75k contribution to Parish Share which is set to rise to £78k in 2020.

In 2019 half our income came from standing orders which remain strong so far. The second half from all other fund raising, front of house sales etc., and have been severely affected by Covid. However, we will meet all our commitments including 10% to charitable giving and will end the year with around a £40k loss – though it will not be necessary to release funds from investment where we have considerable reserves.

Cliff invited anyone who had any questions or would like more information to contact him.

The Vicar thanked Cliff for his enormous contribution, delivered with a lightness of touch, that provides insight and wisdom with a sense of calm.

Liz Buckley proposed, seconded by Brenda Ford and agreed unanimously that the Treasurers report be accepted and signed off.

REPORTS:

The Vicar thanked Linda Hunter for compiling the very comprehensive Annual Report, gathering information from all the many contributors. It displays an active, wide ranging and spiritual Church continuing to grow within our community. Copies are available on line, or printed copies can be made available.

Maureen Davison provided updated Electoral Roll figures, which in April stood at 156 and now at 162.

ELECTIONS:

Deanery Synod – The Vicar expressed gratitude to Monica and Max Philbrick and Jennifer Wright who have agreed to re-election for a second 3-year term. He believes this to be an increasingly important role as the deanery work closely together to further the ministry of the church. Mike Collins proposed, Paul Morris seconded and it was agreed unanimously the three be re-elected.

Parochial Church Council – Kate Jenkins, Anne King Lewis and Edward Pybus have all agreed to a further term as PCC members and 3 new members appointed as follows: -

John Williams	Proposed:	Michael Rae	Seconded:	Margaret Dowdeswell
David McEwan		Michael Priestley		Warwick Milne
David Preece		Suzette Milne		Warwick Milne

All appointments agreed unanimously and duly elected. There remains one PCC vacancy and anyone interested should contact David, Lynn or Linda for more information.

Warwick and Suzette Milne, are standing down this year, they were thanked for their tireless contributions and commitment to St Andrew's and will be greatly missed.

The Vicar thanked everyone for the many gifts and wisdom they brought to PCC and looked forward to furthering the progress already made during 2020.

APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER:

Mr Roger Jones has said he is willing to continue.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Linda Hunter expressed personal and PCC thanks to David for the time, energy, joy and commitment he has brought to the life of St Andrew's alongside his work as the Area Dean, the Prayer Strand and working alongside Bishop Christine. She expressed the thanks of everyone to Janet and her unfailing support behind the scenes for David and the Parish.

David too expressed his delight at being at St Andrews and working with a team of colleagues he values highly and despite this difficult year, looks forward to getting back fully on track in 2021. The meeting closed at 11. 50am with the grace.



During Advent 2020



Palm Sunday 2021

In my report last year, the reality of Covid was still very new and we wondered what the year would bring. I'm not sure any of us at that stage quite realized how much things would change both in our Church and in the wider community and nation. It has been a very tough year indeed, a year of restriction, fear, loss, isolation and disappointment for so many. But I feel proud of the way everyone has pulled together. And there is hope, not least from the amazing vaccine programme for which we thank God daily. Our pastoral and prayer network was and continues to be a real means of support and care and I am more than grateful for the hub leaders who fulfilled their duties so whole-heartedly and well. We have sought to keep the life of St Andrew's and Halton as full as possible and there has been much to learn and things to celebrate, even in the midst of all we have missed. I am also grateful to everyone who has continued to support the work of this Parish, not least financially, as the result of restrictions and lockdowns meant that many sources of income dried up. And thank you to everyone who responded to our Giving Commitment Sunday on Passion Sunday. Your continued support is a cause for joy and thanksgiving.

Worship

Through the first lock-down we quickly established YouTube on-line services. Initially, we were recording from our homes and it was a steep learning curve! Once we were allowed back into St Andrew's, we have pre-recorded in Church, and I am grateful to Rachel Kennedy and Sam Lohead who have recorded and uploaded the weekly services and to Simon Hunter who sent out the links. Our on-line presence will be part of our future ministry, and as I write this report, wi-fi is being installed in Church which in time will enable us to 'live-stream'. Also, our thanks are due to the Messy Church team who have produced regular YouTube recordings over the course of the year.

We were pleased to be able to worship in Church at Christmas, even if with greatly reduced accommodation. The abiding memory, however, is our two open-air Carol Services on 23 and 24 December in the churchyard, as out-door singing was permitted. Colin Williams arranged for members of Hexham Brass and friends to play, and while on 23 December the service was held in the midst of 'tempest, storm and wind', Christmas Eve was a beautiful evening and we were delighted that some 400 people attended the two services. Ian Wylie also generously filmed our Festival of Lessons and Carols for Christmas Eve, and many found that recording a means of both 'comfort and joy' in a difficult time. The diocesan 'Christmas in a Bag' initiative enabled us to provide a creative alternative to our popular Crib Service.

The second lock-down was a blow, but gradually since mid-March, we have begun to resume worship and we were delighted to have a full Holy Week programme of services, including two ecumenical services with Corbridge Methodist Church. On Easter Day, having the congregation singing in the churchyard was a real joy and we have continued singing the final hymn outdoors throughout Eastertide.

Meanwhile, a planning group has been meeting to scope a new Sunday afternoon service to be called *River at St Andrew's*. We are planning two summer pilot services with a view to this becoming a weekly informal and creative service open to all ages and giving an alternative style to our Sunday morning worship. We see this as central to our mission to grow our work with children, teenagers, families and all who would value an accessible and informal approach to worship. We will say more about this in the June *Parish News*.

The Organ

The Church organ fell silent in March 2020 as the £100,000 restoration project began.

The Lady Chapel was sealed off as a 'works area'. It was fascinating to see the organ completely dismantled, much of it removed to Lightbown's workshop in North Shields and then gradually re-assembled. The results are amazing; the organ sounds so much brighter and louder and we have new additions, including trumpet and trombone stops. The work was completed for Holy Week, and we are in the process of final adjustments and snagging. I am delighted to report that we have raised the £100,000 pounds, aided by some generous grants, overseen by Jean Wilks. The grants are due to the enormous generosity of the congregation and Village in response to our Gift Day in raising the first £60,000 ourselves. We are making plans for the Organ Re-dedication festival later this year (details will be published asap) when we can thank everyone for this amazing joint initiative.

We are grateful to Marc Bryant, both for playing all services during the summer and early autumn after John's retirement and for the loan of his own electric organ during the refurbishment. We are also most grateful to Simon Caudwell who shared services with Marc during the winter and spring, playing our piano beautifully.

People

Rosemary Hendry's placement with us as part of her ordination training was sadly brought to a premature end by the first lock-down. However, we were delighted when Rosemary was ordained Deacon in the autumn, serving at Greenside and Crawcrook. Rosemary's smile and positive ministry among us are abiding memories.

In July we were delighted to welcome Sam Lohead as Assistant Curate. Sam was initially licensed as a Lay Minister because of Covid but was eventually ordained Deacon in Hexham in October. Sam has made an excellent start to his ministry here, and we look forward to his ordination as priest on 3 July at St George's Jesmond and his first presidency of the Eucharist at St Andrew's on Wednesday 7 July at 7.30pm.

Also, in October we had the joy of seeing Lynn Caudwell ordained priest here at St Andrew's by Bishop Christine. Lynn's first presidency at the Eucharist was an evening to remember, with the Revd Jonathan Lawson, Vicar of Heaton, preaching at Lynn's invitation. It has been very good to receive Lynn's ministry among us as priest.

In December, after going through diocesan and national discernment, Linda Hunter was recommended to training for ordained ministry. There was great joy when this was announced in Church on the Sunday before Christmas, and Linda has begun her contextually-based training here in Corbridge under my supervision. Please keep her in your prayers.

In August, John Ross decided to retire as one of our Church Organists, having given years of service to St Andrew's and the music of our worship. We are greatly indebted to John for this ministry. In recognition of his outstanding service, the PCC appointed him as Organist Emeritus.

To succeed John, we are delighted that John Roper has been appointed as Job-Share Organist beginning this month. We are fortunate indeed to have a musician of John's calibre to join the music team and to be part of the life and worship of our Church.

Jean Wilks has made a splendid contribution in her first year as Churchwarden, working alongside Linda. As well as using her skills in grant applications for the Organ and mechanisation of the clock, Jean has taken on the fabric aspects of the warden's role, while continuing to sing in the choir and being Choir Secretary.

We were saddened by the death of a number of members of our Church community over the recent year, Nancy Dickinson, Anna Colquhoun, Tony Blofield, Helga Marshall, Margaret Coulson, Wilfrid Fawcett, Eileen Hopkins, and Paul Davison. Despite the restrictions we have been under, their funerals were moving and fitting thanksgivings for their life and faith as we rejoice that they are now with God in glory.

Mission and Ministry

I am grateful to Lynn, Sam and Linda for the written reflections they have provided throughout the year. This began as a means of providing spiritual sustenance for those who couldn't access YouTube or Zoom, but they have had much wider appeal as reflections on aspects of the Bible, prayer, theology and Christian living. Again, this is an aspect of ministry that we hope to continue so that we can grow in faith and in our grasp of the depth of Christian wisdom and spirituality.

Lynn has led on two excellent projects. The first is the Book Club, of which we have two currently running, with the possibility of further groups as the year progresses in and beyond Corbridge. The series of books explore our growth in faith and in prayer and have been hugely appreciated by the members. The second is the 'Take 5' Mission initiative. Lynn has led a small group scoping our annual charitable giving (10% of our planned giving), but also by real engagement with the 5 projects we are supporting and praying for weekly in our services. 'Take 5' will be a growing part of our Church life, and arising from it, in partnership with A Rocha UK we will begin to engage seriously with becoming an Eco-Church.

Jan Williams and Sam Lohead devised an outstanding Lent Course, delivered on Zoom, and exploring the new 'Northern Saints' Trails. Jan gave 6 outstanding talks from her knowledge and experience as a senior Blue Badge Guide and Sam responded with spiritual reflections. The Zoom audience was extensive, far beyond Corbridge, with 100 screens each week. We hope that we can 'try out' parts of the walks as the year progresses and how we might develop pilgrimage and as part of our corporate spirituality.

I have been involved in setting up lay training courses for Corbridge, Hexham and Bellingham deaneries on leading worship and pastoral care, with some members of St Andrew's undertaking the latter, and we will develop worship gifts as the *River* service moves forwards.

Members of the Parish Home Group, Prayer Group, and Women's Fellowship have continued through meeting on Zoom, and indeed most routine meetings have used the same medium. As we emerge from lock-down we need to press on with the next stage of embedding our Parish Mission Statement and restoring regular aspects of our 'normal' ministry. This will include occasional offices, seeking to welcome and inform those who will move into the new estate being built in the parish, and developing our faith formation. There is much to do.

Many, many people contribute to the diverse life of our Church and I will make that a feature of what I say at the APCM.

Conclusion

In the Book of Revelation, there is a repeated phrase in chapters 2 and 3: 'Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the Churches'. What is the Spirit saying to us, in this parish, to our Diocese, and to the Church nationally and internationally? Where is the wind of the Spirit blowing us? Where is the breath of the Spirit inspiring us into new ways of mission and service? Things are changing, and there will be new opportunities, new people, new initiatives if we can but respond in prayer, in love and in our commitment to our Lord and the gospel. May we listen together and discern together the way forward. Thank you for your love, forbearance, prayers, friendship and commitment to the God we know in Jesus and through the Spirit. At the last PCC I spoke on St Paul's conclusion to his great exposition of the Resurrection in 1 Corinthians 15. In view of the risen life of Christ and the sure and certain hope that we have of being raised through him to eternal life, St Paul brings us back to the present:

Therefore my beloved brothers and sisters, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, since you know that in the Lord, your labour is not in vain.



The Ministry Team recording their weekly Youtube service.

ELECTORAL ROLL

Maureen Davison

The total number at the beginning of the year was 156. During the year there have been 12 removals and fifteen additions. The current total of names on the Electoral Roll is 159.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING REPORT

MEMBERSHIP

Members of the PCC are either exofficio, elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with Church Representation Rules or co-opted by the PCC.

During the year the following served as members of the PCC:

Vicar:	Canon David J Kennedy
Assistant Curate:	Rev'd Lynn Caudwell
Assistant Curate:	Rev'd Sam Lohead
Churchwardens:	Linda E Hunter and Jean Wilks

Representatives on the Deanery Synod:

Max Philbrick, Monica Philbrick, Jennifer Wright

Elected Members:

Jon Williams	David McEwan	David Preece	
Pauline Bennett	Edward Pybus	Ian Graves	Kate Jenkins
Anne King Lewis			

Co-opted	Cliff Wright	Treasurer
	Carol Moffatt	Minute Secretary

It is a requirement by law that a Standing Committee is appointed. It sets the agenda for the PCC meeting and deals with business in between meetings.

Members: Vicar, Assistant Curates, Churchwardens, Treasurer, Kate Jenkins and David Preece.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

7 meetings of the PCC and 8 of the Standing Committee were held during the last year, some on zoom and some face to face. The APCM was postponed and held on 13th September. Despite covid the PCC has still been very busy throughout the year with a range of topics discussed. Despite the last APCM being later this review covers March 2020 to March 2021 but only covers material which is not reported on in other reports in this booklet. More detail may be found in the Minute file available at the back of church and on the website.

TOPICS COVERED

As well as our regular business, reports of which are included elsewhere in this report. We have also discussed:

- Refurbishment of the Organ and the appointment of Organists
- Safeguarding Dashboard
- Patterns of worship – in particular how we would open up after covid, what our worship may look like under restrictions.
- Legacies
- Broadband
- On line giving
- Ministry of Welcome



The first recordings from the vicarage – March 2020



Rev'd Sam Lohead, ordained deacon at Hexham Abbey.



Rev'd Lynn Caudwell, ordained priest at St. Andrew's Church.

CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT:

Linda Hunter and Jean Wilks

In Autumn 2020, Mike Collins stood down after 4½ years as Churchwarden. We are grateful to him for all his work over that time. Jean stepped into his shoes and is steadily learning the job. After 11 years as Churchwarden, Linda will stand down in May 2021 to take up her new journey as an Ordinand. So, it's a time of change for us all.

As ever, we thank our Ministry team for their tireless work and enthusiasm. We also thank their partners and families for supporting them in all the work that they do. It has been good to welcome Sam Lohead, our new Assistant Curate, who quickly rose to the extra challenge of joining a new parish during a pandemic and lockdown. For all of the team, ministry during Covid-19 has been full of new challenges; a closed church increased their workload rather than reduced it, and they have all enthusiastically embraced the brave new world of on-line broadcasting.

Covid safety has been a major part of the Churchwardens' year too. We have worked hard on risk assessments, seating plans, timetables, booking systems, pew cleaning and other procedures to make our church as safe as it can be for all who visit and worship here.

We are responsible for maintaining the church building and property, and for addressing health and safety issues, and we are active members of the Maintenance Committee. This has included raising grant income to automate the church clock, applying for Faculty to automate the clock and install broadband, liaising with our insurers, and commissioning an architect to conduct the quinquennial inspection of our two churches.

We would like to thank everyone involved in all the different tasks, rotas and committees to ensure that things run smoothly for all our different services and activities. There are far too many of you to mention by name, but we really do appreciate all that you do.

HALTON ST. OSWALD

Edward Pybus

Little did we know at the time of our service on 1 March last year that it would be seven months before we would be seeing each other again at Halton. Lockdown intervened before the end of that March and our services were suspended until the following October and then again from early January to mid-March this year.

Services with celebration of Holy Communion resumed last October with our Harvest Thanksgiving and continued with our regular monthly (1st Sunday) service in November and December and our service on Christmas Day. There was one more service at the beginning of January before the second lockdown and then another suspension until the middle of March which served as preparation for Easter and was especially welcome.

All the services have been conducted by our Vicar, Canon David Kennedy, save on Christmas Day when the celebrant was our Assistant Curate, Rev'd Lynn Caudwell. Lynn also preached in October and our other Assistant Curate, Rev'd Sam Lohead, in November. Attendance on Christmas Day at 21 was reduced by reason of lockdown conditions and at other services has held steady at an average 14. All the services have had special significance as we have come to realise, the constraints of social distancing and the curtailment of music notwithstanding, what we are missing when they cannot be held. We are ever grateful to David, Lynn and Sam for the spiritual strength and support which they bring to us and which have been so much needed in the solitary months of lockdown. The large number of comments written in the Visitors Book, all appreciative and many inspiring too, would indicate that there have been more visitors than ever over the year, another manifestation perhaps of the lockdown and the pressing need we all feel to break its hold on us.

Day to day arrangements continue as before. Most particularly, Suzette Milne orders the regular internal cleaning of the church and a flower rota and Sir Hugh Blackett the essential external maintenance of the church and the churchyard including the extensive mowing. We are deeply grateful to them and to all those who help.

Parish Safeguarding Team

Parish Safeguarding Officer	Mandy Norton	Tel: 01434 632585
Safer Recruitment Officer	Richard Adams.	Tel: 01434 634869
Asst PSO (Admin)	Linda E Hunter	Tel: 01434 633742

'The Church of England is committed to the safeguarding, care and nurture of everyone within the church community so that all can flourish in faith and know the love of God.

We all have a responsibility to care for one another, and to keep people safe from harm, and it is especially important that children and vulnerable adults are protected.'

Quote from the Church of England website.

Here in St. Andrew's and Halton we need to remember that we are all responsible for keeping each other safe. Mandy is always available to talk to if you have any safeguarding concerns. She can also point you in right direction if you need any information. Richard looks after the recruitment paperwork in particular the Volunteer forms and on-line DBS checks, new and renewals.

All those involved in roles which require Safeguarding training have participated in the appropriate course for their role - Basic Awareness, Foundation or Leadership. Basic Awareness training is available for any interested person through the on-line training portal, if you want to find out more look on the C of E Safeguarding training page.

Safeguarding is on the agenda of every PCC meeting and we try to keep as up to date as possible with all the current legislation and guidance. Our Safeguarding policy is updated in line with the National guidance annually, and agreed at our October PCC meeting. We have a parish Domestic Abuse policy. Leaflets about Domestic abuse have been produced and are available at the back of the church. We have a Social Media policy and are signed up to the Church of England digital charter to help make social media and the web more widely positive places for conversations to happen. We are using the new safeguarding dashboard.

For further information please go to the Diocese of Newcastle website

www.newcastle.anglican.org/safeguarding

and the Church of England Safeguarding Page

www.churchofengland.org/more/safeguarding

FABRIC, GOODS AND ORNAMENTS OF THE CHURCH

Michael Rae and Jon Williams

Maintenance Committee

Jean Wilks

Churchwarden

The fabric of the Church is in serviceable condition, and all goods and ornaments are as required for worship and events to take place in both St. Andrew's and St. Oswald's.

Quinquennial inspection.

The last inspections were in 2015 for St Andrew's and 2016 for Halton. The next inspection of both churches, and the cottage, will take place during 2021.

Statutory Requirements.

During the year we have had inspection of the fire extinguishers and boilers, and regular inspections of ladders. Inspection of the alarm system has been arranged.

St. Andrew's Church: Maintenance and Works undertaken:

- Pointing repairs were done in August and April.
- Memorial Garden: our contractor carries out new inscriptions each Summer.
- Churchyard Maintenance: We have a close working relationship with the Parish Council who have responsibility for the church yard, including grass cutting and safety of footpaths.

St. Andrew's Church: works planned.

- Church Clock: the annual maintenance inspection was delayed due to Covid-19, but will take place later in 2021 at the same time as the clock automation.
- Repairs are needed to North Transept roof, following water ingress in wet weather. Quotes and permission have been obtained, and a contractor instructed.
- Gutters and gullies: quotes for cleaning and repainting have been obtained, and a contractor instructed.
- The Atkinson memorial door shattered without warning in the first week of April. We are urgently working on a permanent replacement, in conjunction with our insurers and the Atkinson family.

Application was made in February 2021 for Faculty (church planning permission) for three projects. Faculty was granted in April 2021, and work will be completed soon:

- Automatic winding for the church clock. This will avoid the need for the clock to be manually wound three times a week. It is fully funded by grant aid from Corbridge Parish Council, Corbridge W.I., Corbridge Village Trust, Catherine Cookson Trust, Allchurches Trust, and Ecclesiastical Trust; we are very grateful to them all.
- Installing broadband in the church, enabling us to live-stream services and events, and allowing people to take part in services on-line. A cable will enter the church through the choir vestry, leading to a broadband router in a concealed position in the Baptistry.
- Displaying an icon in the Sanctuary. This is a Romanian icon of St Andrew, donated to the parish in 2012 by Sir Miles Irving.

St Andrew's Cottage

- Replacement of the roof was completed in Spring 2020.
- There is damp in the cottage walls and kitchen floor. Some external damp was caused by a leak, now repaired. Internally, damp is being dried out gradually by a dehumidifier. We have had a damp survey done, and are considering the cost and implications of some of the recommendations.
- The boiler may need replacing soon.
- We are very grateful to Warwick and Suzette Milne who continue to keep the cottage garden tidy.

St Oswald's, Halton

- Pointing to the east gable was completed in August.
- The path to the church door has been cleared.

Contract Renewal:

Electrical contracts for St. Andrew's, Halton and the Cottage have now been fixed until 2023. The cottage gas contract has been fixed until 2024. The Church gas contract runs until 2025.

Health and Safety:

A risk assessment is always carried out when we carry out a new event. During covid it was reviewed regularly. Health and Safety action plans for both St. Andrew's' and St. Oswald's are in place. Our health & safety audit checklist was reviewed this year and all policies will be looked

at over the coming year.

Security Review:

If you have a key and you are no longer in the role you received it for, please return to the Churchwardens. We are continually monitoring our security arrangements and take advice from our insurers.

THANK YOU.

The fabric of our churches is well looked after and we are extremely grateful to all those who contribute to this in any way, either in person or financially. It is impossible to thank all those who play a part in this. Many people are involved. Thank you to all volunteers.

Churchwarden's note: We are especially indebted to the Michael and Jon for all their work.



Mike Collins winding the clock – thanks to the winding team

MISSION AND MINISTRY

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES

JUNIOR CHURCH

Louise Stubbs, Leader

Due to the onset of the coronavirus pandemic and the enforced closures of our Church, (at various times during March 2020 to March 2021) we have been unable to make any provision for Junior Church.

Easter Sunday (12.4.20)

The traditional egg hunt and Easter activities for the children were also cancelled, however, chocolate eggs were made available, in Church, throughout the Easter period. There were a considerable number of eggs and they all disappeared, at some point, over Easter! The Easter garden was in place outside the main entrance to Church. Unfortunately, the school were, once again, unable to help with this activity but David and Margaret Preece kindly carried on to construct the garden. Our grateful thanks to them both.

Christmas at the Crib (24.12.20)

Ninety adults and forty-five children attended this event. Prior to the day, 200 Christmas activity bags were assembled, in Church, by volunteers. The contents were substantial with the aim of keeping children focused and occupied throughout Christmas. The bags were collected from Church and members of the congregation took bags to give to relatives or people living in their vicinity.

MESSY CHURCH

Messy Church is now in its eleventh year and reflecting on a somewhat different year, as far as maintaining our provision for our Messy Church families. At the start of the pandemic the Messy Church team were able to have a few meetings, in person, at the Church. It was then decided 'ZOOM' meetings would be the way forward. The meetings were well attended by the team members and for the 'uninitiated', mastering the technology was a challenge at first but one which we all mastered! The same format as previously (pre-pandemic) was adapted to enable us to present everything online. We were able to include an introduction to the theme and or story, craft activities, songs and prayers. Occasionally, a physical activity was also included which could be carried out in the home or garden environment. We were delighted to have the support of some Messy Church families who helped the team by contributing videos of activities filmed at home, which were very entertaining. Messy Church 'ZOOM' planning meetings have continued to take place, to plan for our themes, focused around the Church calendar.

Canon. David Kennedy, Rev'd. Lynn Caudwell and Rev'd. Sam Lohead attend our meetings whenever they are available. They have all regularly had a role in the videos produced and we value their input. Linda Hunter (Lay Minister) continues to lead the team and encourages all the team in ensuring Messy Church continues to survive and thrive despite the current situation. (Linda also regularly contributes to the video presentations) We all appreciate her enthusiasm, patience and understanding. Thank you, Linda.

Some of the themes we have addressed have included; Easter activities in 2020, Testing Times, Fish related Bible stories (This prompted a fish outline which was then covered with decorated pebbles brought by Messy Church team, our Messy Church families and members of the general public). Decorated pebbles were consequently laid out in the Church grounds and were greatly admired. One of the pebbles had an amazing likeness of Canon. David Kennedy which was expertly painted! Peter in prison, Saints, it's a mystery, Light, Faith (Trusting in God), Breaking out! (Easter theme including a resurrection trail in the Churchyard, 2021) Viewing figures for these presentations have varied considerably between 204 and 31. *The videos for all these presentations can be viewed on the St. Andrew's You Tube channel.

At this point in my report, I would like to thank all the members of the Messy Church team whose dedication throughout these difficult times have enabled us to maintain the Messy Church provision. A special thank you must also go to Max Philbrick. He has been responsible for collating/ editing all the activities and videos submitted by the team, Max has continued to do this every month, since we began to present Messy Church online. The end product is always so expertly presented and his skills are greatly appreciated. Thank you, Max.

Hopefully, and in the not-too-distant future, we may be able to meet up in person with our team and Messy Church families but in the meantime our thoughts and prayers are with them all.





OUTSIDE MISSION AND GIVING: 'TAKE 5'

Rev'd Lynn Caudwell

Lynn Caudwell was asked to set up a group to consider how to distribute our planned giving in line with our mission statement. Currently the members of the group are Richard Adams, Anne King-Lewis, Coleen Petrie, Max and Monica Philbrick and Jennifer Wright. We will be adding to that number as the year goes on.

We engaged in an on-line process of collaboration and established a decision-making framework, based upon the 5 Marks of Mission. This helped us to form a rationale as we considered how we could encourage more missional awareness in the congregation through supporting various projects, which were approved by the PCC. The result is a group calling itself "Take 5" and each member acts as a champion for one of the 5 different projects. The projects have a variety of emphases both in terms of the 5 marks of mission, geographical reach and potential practical involvement. So far, we have created some background documents on the various projects with a recognisable logo. A prayer diary is continually updated and cycles around the five projects in order to raise awareness through the weekly intercessions. These documents are available for all to read on the website. We are in the process of developing material for a church notice board. The Eco church project (Mark of mission 5) is forming a subcommittee in order to take forward a church survey on how we can improve our environmental awareness and become more carbon neutral as a church community.



The only opportunities to sing over the last 12 months have been between the two lockdowns, and briefly at Christmas. Our heartfelt thanks are due to Jean Wilks, our indefatigable choir secretary who has not only produced a constant issue of emails but as acted as the choir's Zoom Meister, hosting the regular Friday on-line chats, which have gone a long way to maintaining the esprit de corps.

Leading up to Christmas we were able to have some limited rehearsal time and produced a recording of the Christmas Carol service which was made available on line. We are very grateful to Ian Wylie who patiently recorded, filmed and edited the video.

On the Sunday before Christmas Eve and on Christmas Eve we were joined by members of Hexham Brass for two open air services (which despite the weather on the Sunday) were well attended. Christmas Eve particularly was a memorable service, singing in the heart of the village in the churchyard festooned with festive lights. We are grateful to Roger Carr of Hexham Brass for his help and support and assembling his brass-playing colleagues.

With the slight relaxing of restrictions, we are now singing as a small group on Sunday Mornings, and we are all looking forward to when we can re-start rehearsals, rediscover our repertoire and, most importantly, join in with the congregation.

We have said goodbye to Paul Hagger (although I am sure it should be au revoir) who after an association with the choir for more than 20 years has moved south to be nearer his grandchildren.

Sadly, the choir was honoured to sing at the funeral of Paul Davidson, who sang with us for several years until he became increasingly unwell. I personally would like to thank all the choir for rallying round and supporting Paul until it became too difficult for him. His enthusiasm and engaging smile will remain in our memories.

Musically, the biggest significant event during the last year has been the completion of the restoration of the organ, (details are covered elsewhere), and as we slowly emerge from the pandemic, we will begin to exploit in full its glorious new sound and increased range of voices.

Finally, after a very long association with St Andrew's as both organist and choirmaster John Ross has decided to retire for health reasons. We are delighted that he has now fully recovered from a

very serious operation, and equally delighted that he has accepted the post of Organist Emeritus, and we look forward to his occasional guest appearance in the future.

And to end on something very exciting: John Roper has accepted the shared post of organist. His first Sunday will be 9th May, and with Marc Bryant and the Choir we look forward to a long and inspiring association as we seek to develop the music of St Andrew's and leave the pandemic behind us.



Carols for All in the churchyard.



BOOK GROUP

Rev'd Lynn Caudwell

After an initial delay following the disruption of the first lockdown, six members of the original book group decided to continue on zoom with the book series 'Sensible Shoes'. We have met weekly, and it has proved to be a source of real encouragement and spiritual formation for all those taking part. This group has continued on throughout the year and are now completing book 3 with plans to go onto the final book, starting in May. A second group has formed and is finishing book 1 with plans to go on with the series. Again, this second group has found it to be a relationally rewarding and spiritually significant exercise. Jennifer Wright, one of the members of the first group, is helping to co-lead the second group with Lynn Caudwell. There are plans to offer this study to those who would like to meet in person when things open up again. We are also hoping that leaders will emerge from both groups to see this going forward in the coming year.

HOME GROUP

Anne King-Lewis, Max Philbrick, Paul Morris.

We all wondered how we would manage to continue Home Group throughout the Covid restrictions, but we soon became accustomed to using Zoom and perhaps were able to be more relaxed and open in our discussions and our fellowship together certainly deepened and grew. A non-Zooming member was kept involved by a telephone call after each meeting. Here are some comments from the group:

"I have never belonged to a home group before and since joining have looked forward to meeting other Christians and sharing our Faith together."

"It's 'body-building' in Christ if you like. Home group gives us space to think as we all search God's Word, ask questions, air doubts and be vulnerable with one another. In the dark days of Covid, I have been very grateful for the group. It helped enormously to have Christian fellowship."

"Home groups help the individual to grow in their Christian faith."

"It has been really good to share our faith in a more meaningful personal way without fear of criticism."

We have been able to share more deeply with Methodist friends and also with others who have moved out of the area. The studies have been led in a conversational style which has meant they are more informal and relaxed. Any who would like to join us would be most welcome!!

NORTHERN SAINTS TRAILS

Rev'd Sam Lochhead

Over Lent St Andrew's hosted a series of talks and reflections on Zoom based around the Northern Saints Trails. The trails comprise six walking routes exploring the North East's cultural, historical and spiritual landscape.

We were guided along the routes by our own Jan Williams - who shared both her deep knowledge of the region's history as well as a sense of how that history informs and shapes the region today.

Each week Jan focused on one of the routes, highlighting significant landmarks and exploring the stories behind many of the churches found on each of the trails.

Alongside this, each route also explored a different theme - such as the Way of the Sea which emphasised the region's ecological significance and conservation, or the Way of Life which offered a chance to consider the significance of many kinds of craftsmanship in the region's history. As part of this, at the end of each talk Sam offered a short reflection, inspired by what Jan had spoken about and also by various texts or images from the Christian tradition.

Together these talks and reflections offered a slightly different way of approaching Lent - thinking about our place in the world around us, and how our region's very rich history, culture, and spirituality informs our way of life, our relationships with others and our relationship with God.

It was a real delight to see how much enthusiasm the talks generated - it has been great to be able to offer these talks not just to the congregation at St Andrew's, but also to the wider community and even further afield - having guests join us from as far away as Germany and Spain! We hope to be able to build on all this in the future - when restrictions allow - by walking some of the more local parts of the routes together. With any luck, it will be a chance to translate all the virtual pilgrimages of Lent (just short of 200 miles in total!) into some communal pilgrimages later in 2021.



St Andrew's Church,
Corbridge



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Linda E Hunter, Leader

The year 2020 has been a different year for Women's Fellowship as we have not met face to face since February 2020, despite that we have tried as best as we can to keep in touch with one another. For those who were able, we have had zoom meetings when we have had the opportunity, through breakout rooms to get to know one another a little more. Jan Williams gave us a talk about being a Blue Badge Guide and our Lent service took place over zoom too. The committee have met regularly and we are currently reviewing our timing and place of meeting. If you would like to join, please do get in touch. Thank you to Mary Rae and Mary Gray who retired from the committee. Welcome to Janet Kennedy who has joined the committee. Special thanks to Rosemary Rayfield, Sheila Neilson, Liz Buckley, Elsie Fletcher and Janet Kennedy, who have all helped to keep things running smoothly.

PRAYER GROUP

Jennifer Wright

The prayer group has kept meeting every Thursday morning during the pandemic using the on-line facility of Zoom. We continue to pray for current issues relevant to our lives here in Corbridge as well as those relating to the country and the rest of the world.

We pray for the work of the Ministry team and all of the groups working within our church including for the regular church services, Messy Church, book groups, home group, YouTube services etc. We also pray for people we know of who are unwell, or have asked for us to pray about their particular needs.

In addition, we remember those we have chosen to support financially through the "Take 5" initiative. This includes:

- Stop Gap - helping Hexham's homeless.
- The Lighthouse Project- a church in Byker where they are working to make their church into not only a place of worship but also a flexible modern space for the community, especially the young people.
- CMS (Church Mission Society) - for Phil and Sylvie Good in Lebanon and their work with Emil and Reem Bourizk who run a school for Syrian refugee children.
- Getachew and his family in his work as a Bible translator in Ethiopia.
- The Eco Church programme involving St Andrew's in environmental issues and looking at ways we can get involved as a church.

We all value and enjoy the time together each week, and when we are allowed to meet in person again, we hope to resume our meetings in church.

OUTREACH

FOODBANK

Monica Philbrick

Covid has of course affected how many donations we have picked up from the church, and how easy it has been for people to drop them off. But despite these limitations the Food Bank in Hexham has been at work!

500 households in the area of Hexham, Haltwhistle and Prudhoe have received parcels. The Food Bank set up a helpline and delivery service in March 2020, rather than people visiting their Haugh Lane site. 150 personalised parcels are delivered each week.... a total of 6,000 parcels and 6,000 miles from March – September 2020. They estimate that £90,000 worth of food has been donated in that time.

For more really interesting information do look at their website - and read their annual report! westnorthumberlandfoodbank.org.uk.

CHURCH WELCOMERS and GUIDES

Elizabeth Collins, Convenor

Over the last year it has not been possible for the Church Guides to be present in St. Andrew's. We hope that later in 2021 we may be able to start up again.

St. Andrew's is mentioned on the National Churches Trust – explore churches website. The link below will take you onto the website.

<https://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/explore-churches/st-andrew-corbridge>



ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION

Simon Hunter

Over the last year our communication has become increasingly important. We have sent out a weekly church email which has helped to keep everyone up to date. It has provided links to the YouTube services, the bulletin, reflection, a letter from David, orders of services, the monthly Messy Church YouTube video and other relevant information. In addition, some members of the congregation have received paper copies of the information emailed out.

The increased use of social media, smart phones and mobiles devices means it is essential to be able to communicate with as many people as possible.

Website: Each week the website is updated with the Sunday service resources and also the link to the YouTube channel. We are streaming on our YouTube channel at 10.00am. each Sunday. You can access it via the Church website, the weekly email, or directly via YouTube: St. Andrew's Church, Corbridge. You can sign up to the weekly email via the website.

Website: www.corbridgechurch.org.uk

Facebook: We have two Facebook pages: Corbridge Church and Corbridge Church Families

and a twitter account: Corbridge Church tweets@CorbridgeChurc1

At the main festive seasons i.e., Advent and Christmas, Lent and Easter we produce a booklet containing all the relevant service and event information. Paper copies are available along with electronic ones

We would welcome contribution for the News and Events section these can be emailed to sahunter@corbridgechurch.org.uk.

PARISH NEWS

Max Philbrick

With so few special events and activities to advertise and then report on, the Parish News faltered during the first lockdown in 2020, and then ceased publication after July.

Anticipating the emergence from lockdown in spring and summer 2021, the Parish News re-appeared in April 2021. As well as reporting forthcoming events, we look forward to again sharing contributions from members of St Andrew's (and Halton), so articles and photos are always welcome. Please give or send them to max.philbrick@gmx.co.uk

EVENTS & FUNDRAISING

EVENTS

Linda E Hunter and Jean Wilks

A small team comprising Mary Oswell, Jenny Watson, Coleen Petrie, Gail Williams and ourselves was set up to oversee the musical events and we had some interesting concerts planned for 2020. We began our lunchtime music series with an organ recital by Marc Bryant, followed by a piano recital by Cristo Harijan, we then had to stop the series in church. We were very grateful to Ian Wylie who recorded a concert by Deborah Thorne and a concert by Faye Robinson accompanied by Sarah Robinson which went out via facebook.



The Chamber Music Festival is back in July and we hope to commence lunchtime musical concerts after that. We have further plans for late Summer and the Autumn.

FUNDRAISING

Thanks to Suzette and Warwick for arranging the Grand Draw which brought in over £1,000.

CHURCH COTTAGE

Suzette Milne, Convenor

This year we have not had any lets at all. The cottage is in need of considerable work, you will have seen that reported elsewhere in this report.

Special thanks to Michael Rae for his willingness to help when needed.

CHURCH FLOWERS

Sheila Goldsworthy, Convenor

During lockdown we were unable to come into church to arrange flowers. Since reopening we have tried hard to keep the church looking cheerful.

If there are flower arrangers, water and sort ladies who would like to join our teams, please contact Sheila Goldsworthy 632595. A huge "Thank You" for all the donations you give to the Easter Box and the Christmas donation boxes.



David after recording his VE 75 day prayers and message.

CORBRIDGE CHURCH OF ENGLAND AIDED FIRST SCHOOL

Gayle Baty, Chair of Governors / Jennifer Ainsley, Head Teacher

Parochial Church Council (PCC) Annual Report



Current number on roll	144	% of SEND pupils (Special Education Need / disability)	8
Age range of pupils	3-9	% of disadvantaged pupils	18

Our annual report this year reports on a year like no other, but as Executive Headteacher of Corbridge and Broomhaugh First Schools I continue to be proud to work with a team of fully dedicated staff and governors to ensure the best education and social experiences for our children, enabling them to flourish and be self-confident, proud members of their community. This has never been truer than over the past 18 months as we have engaged in a blend of in-school learning as well as remote and blended learning for our children and their families. We are dedicated and committed to seeing our school thrive.

We welcomed a more 'normal' autumn term and both embraced and enjoyed having all children back in school where they belong. We were thrilled with how well our families had juggled their working commitments to continue to support us in providing an excellent, broad curriculum, even in challenging times. Unfortunately, another lockdown in January meant we had to go back to managing the various situations for key workers and families at home but again, we are so proud of staff, children and their families for all they have done. This time around we were able to be much more prepared and engagement levels were very high through our online Google Classroom provision.

Our staff team have been, and continue to be, fantastic and have continually adapted to the changing circumstances, as have we all, and we are very proud of the provision our children have continued to receive. We truly hope that the rest of this academic year and beyond will continue to be stable, with school fully open allowing the children to flourish and take their place as the heart of the school.

We are currently in the process of consulting on making our soft federation arrangement of shared leadership formal, through forming a hard federation with Broomhaugh C of E First School. We have seen so many positive benefits in working together and know that this has enabled us to be stronger. We look forward to continuing this positive relationship moving forwards.

STAFFING UPDATES

In September 2021 we will also be welcoming a new Executive Deputy Head Teacher who will be appointed in the coming weeks. Mrs Sarah Gray will be leaving us at the end of the summer term as she is moving to Dubai with her family to begin a new chapter of their lives. There is no question her skills and amazing presence will be a huge miss in school as she has been a driving force in so many accomplishments for our schools over the last two years. We cannot thank her enough for all she has done and will continue to achieve, over this final summer we have together. We wish her all the best for her new adventure overseas.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

The Shared Leadership of Broomhaugh and Corbridge Church of England First Schools have now been in place for 2 years. Children from both schools continue to benefit through additional experiences and shared resources. This year has seen both schools invest in staff development through training staff as Forest School leaders and the organisation of character education through Commando Joe's. We have also implemented new English resources and planning support which re-focusses our teaching on the power and love of reading. All feedback so far is extremely positive and will have a direct, positive impact for all pupils. We are also thrilled that sports clubs have been able to start back up and to try and compensate a little for what our children have missed; we have provided the opportunity for every child in school to access a free extra-curricular club. We continue to have specialist teaching through sports specialists, music specialists, and ICT technician support. We have also invested further in to our computing resources with the purchase of a half class set of laptops and iPads. The financial savings resulting from the shared leadership and joint procurement have also allowed us to focus the little money we have directly to Page 2 of 2 areas which have clear benefit for our children. Staff continue to benefit from working together and sharing skills across the schools and staff professional development opportunities are enabling us to grow and flourish.

The commitment and dedication of the staff team and all those involved in our school community are what continues to make us strong and I extend thanks for all these stake holders.

With God's guidance we strive each day to be the best we can be

Our two Assistant Curates



Sam leading the VJ75 prayers.



Lynn and Simon

Photographs: Ian Wylie, Janet Kennedy, Linda E Hunter.

The Parish of St Andrew's, Corbridge with St Oswald, Halton and St James, Newton Hall

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31st December 2020



1. Independent Examiner's Report
2. Treasurer's Report
3. Summarised Balance Sheet at 31st December 2020
4. Summarised Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ending 31st December 2020
5. Notes to Financial Statements
6. Grants & Donations

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, CORBRIDGE

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, CORBRIDGE

I report on the accounts of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31 December 2020 which are attached.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner.

As the members of the Parochial Church Council, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act) does not apply. It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of the procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 43(7)(b) of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report.

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners and to be found in the church guidance 2011 edition, An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Parochial Church Council and a comparison of the accounts presented with these records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as members concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (a) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - (i) To keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the act; and
 - (ii) To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act;have not been met; or
- (b) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

R Jones

Roger Jones

Dated:

31.3.2021

Parochial Church Council of Corbridge, with Halton and Newton Hall.

TREASURER'S REPORT

For the year ending 31st December 2020

1. Summary

The "bottom line" result for 2020 was a **deficit of £21,422**. This is shown as Net Movement in Funds on the Summarised Statement of Activities (SOFA). The underlying factors which combined to produce the result are

	£000's
Shortfall on Routine Activities	23.2
Outflow on Projects (Fabric Fund)	70.9
Reduction in Value of Investments	7.6
Legacies Received	80.3
Net Movement in Funds	-21.4

2. Routine (or Normal) Activities

Both income and expenditure fell in comparison to 2019:

	2019	2020	Change	
	£000's	£000's	£000's	%
Net Income	139.7	101.4	-38.3	-27%
Net Expenditure	133.4	124.6	8.9	7%
Surplus/Shortfall	6.2	-23.2	-29.5	

2.1 Net Income

Although there was a commendable increase over 2019 in the value of income from Standing Orders (inc tax) of £7,100, all other categories fell. Hardest hit were Fund Raising Activities which fell by £21,800.

2.2 Net Expenditure

Expenditure levels generally decreased as activity in the church was restricted. Our largest cost is obviously Parish Share, however, and the apportionment of £78,000 for 2020 was £1,500 higher than the previous year.

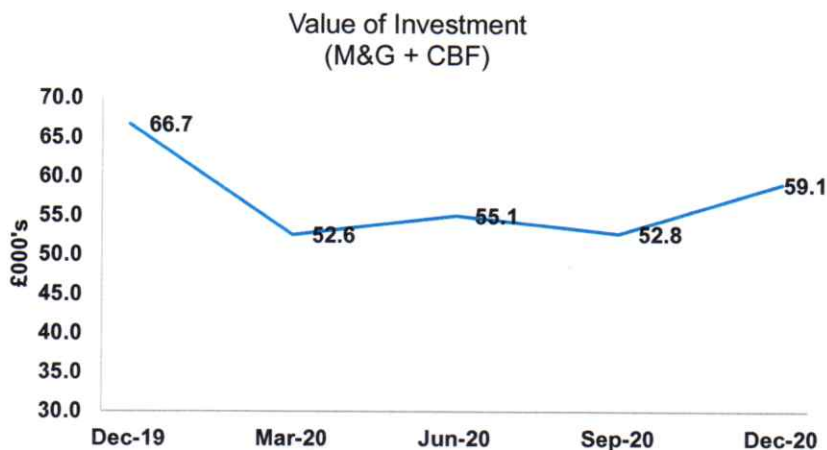
3. Projects (Fabric Fund)

On the face of it, an outflow of more than £70,000 seems dramatic. For the most part, however, this was associated with the organ project and, therefore, expected. Grants and donations have been received into 2021 and the project is very close to being fully funded.

The only other significant expenditure in 2020 was the re-roofing of St Andrew's Cottage at £15,000.

4. Investments

It was a turbulent year for our investments as the following chart shows:



Much of the turbulence was linked to effects on the financial markets of the pandemic although the relationship with the EU was also a factor in the final quarter..

5. Legacies

We were fortunate to receive 2 extremely generous legacies in 2020:

Legacy 1. £14,100 restricted to "Music in the Church". £3,300 has already been applied in supplying a new organists' stool.

Legacy 2. £66,200 which is "Unrestricted". These funds are to be designated(set aside) for specific purposes.

6. Reserves

After a year of financial extremes, we still hold very considerable reserves with a total of £182,000. The bulk of this (£132,000) is "Unrestricted" although it includes Legacy 2 (£66,200) for which specific objects are to be identified.

7. Conclusion

The effects of the pandemic were predictably severe with losses on Routine Activities and the value of Investments totalling almost £31,000 when a surplus could have reasonably been expected. The outflow arising from Organ Project was expected and a good proportion of the spend came from donations received in 2019. Generous Legacies have provided a welcome boost to our reserves and will help fund some essential work.

On Routine Activities, the result for 2020 highlights a reliance on healthy fund-raising work to cover regular expenses, such as Parish Share.

A partial recovery in staging fund-raising events combined with a positive response to the March giving appeal should ensure that the 2021 result will mark an improvement on 2020.

Paroical Church Council of Corbridge with Halton and Newton Hall

SUMMARISED BALANCE SHEET – at 31st December 2020

	Note	2020	2019
		£	£
INVESTMENTS			
Investment assets	5		
CBF Fund (CCLA 1S 853.05 shares)		17477	16,352
M & G Fund (3033 units)		41630	50,369
		59107	66,721
 CURRENT ASSETS			
CBF Fund (CCLA 1D + CCLA 2D)		11009	10,963
Cash at bank and in hand	7	111054	118,367
Halton General		6803	6,683
		128866	136,013
<u>ADD</u> ACCRUED INCOME & PREPAYMENTS	6	2972	10,631
<u>LESS</u> LIABILITIES FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR	8	8723	9,722
NET CURRENT ASSETS		123114	136,922
 NET ASSETS		182221	203,643
 FUNDS			
Unrestricted	10	131838	94,703
Restricted		50383	108,940
		182221	203,643

The attached notes form part of these financial statements.

Approved by the PCC on
and signed on their behalf

David J Kenny

Chairman

20.3.21

[Signature]

Treasurer

20.3.21

Parochial Church Council of Corbridge, with Halton and Newton Hall

SUMMARISED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
– for the year ending 31st December 2020

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS 2020 £	2019 £
INCOME & ENDOWMENTS					
Incoming resources from donors	2a	85,748	47	85795	91,411
Other voluntary income resources	2b	200	47,309	47509	99,290
Income from charitable and ancilliary trading	2c	3,294	7,772	11066	18,743
Other ordinary incoming resources	2d	0	1,700	1700	5,203
Extraordinary Income	2e	0	0	0	0
Income from investments	2f	2,529	39	2568	3,075
Total Income & Endowments excl Legacies		91,771	56,866	148638	217,722
EXPENDITURE					
Grants	3a	5,908	1,700	7608	11,216
Activities related to the activities of church	3b	91,883	29,258	121141	129,730
Fund-raising and publicity	3c	0	184	184	3,767
Church management and administration	3d	4,035	0	4035	6,640
Repairs & Maintenance	3e	0	0	0	-368
Projects	3f	0	109,801	109801	7,285
Expenditure in relation to prior years		0	0	0	0
Total Expenditure		101,826	140,942	242768	158,270
Legacies Received	2g	66,245	14,077	80322	1,000
Net Income/Expenditure (-)		56,191	-69,999	-13808	60,453
Transfers Between Funds		-11,442	11,442	0	0
Other Recognised Gains/Losses (-)					
Gains/Losses (-) on Investments		-7,614	0	-7614	9,755
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		37,135	-58,557	-21422	70,207
BALANCES BROUGHT FWD AT 1 JAN 2019		94,703	108,940	203643	133,436
BALANCES CARRIED FWD AT 31 DECEMBER 2019		131,838	50,383	182221	203,643

Parochial Church Council of Corbridge, with Halton and Newton Hall.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2011 together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historic cost convention.

Scope

The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They include the transactions of directly related activities but do not include the transactions of any church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Funds

Restricted funds are maintained to ensure that donations or contributions made by donors for specific purposes are properly applied. Restricted funds are set up and removed at the direction of PCC. Unrestricted funds are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC.

Incoming Resources

Voluntary income and capital resources

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.

Planned giving receivable is recognised only when received.

Income tax recoverable on covenants/gift aid donations is recognised in the year in which it applies.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement and the amount due.

Income from fund raising activities is accounted for gross.

Sales of books, magazines, postcards, etc. from the church bookstall are accounted for gross.

Income will be accrued as appropriate.

Other ordinary income

Rental income from the letting of church premises is recognised when the rental is due.

Income from investments

Dividends and interest are accounted for when receivable. Tax recoverable on such income is recognised in the same accounting year.

Resources expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. All costs have been directly attributed to the expenditure categories used in the statement of financial activities. The church is not registered for VAT, accordingly expenditure is shown gross of unrecoverable VAT.

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

The parish share is accounted for when payable. Any share unpaid at 31 December is provided for in these accounts as an operational (though not a legal) liability and is shown as a creditor in the Balance Sheet.

Fixed assets

Consecrated land and buildings and church furnishings

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993.

No value is placed on movable furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which requires a faculty for disposal since the PCC considers this an inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or benefice buildings and movable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvements, is written off as expenditure in the SOFA and separately disclosed.

Investments

Investments are included at market value at 31 December. The statement of financial activity includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluations and disposals during the year.

Net current assets

Current Assets include cash held on deposit, either with the CBF Church of England Funds, at the bank or in hand.

Amounts owing to, or prepaid by, PCC at 31st December are shown as "Accrued Income & Prepayments".

Amounts which have not been invoiced by service providers but are owed by PCC are shown as "Liabilities Falling Due Within One Year"

2. INCOME & ENDOWMENTS

		<i>Unrestricted Income</i>	<i>Restricted Income</i>	<i>TOTAL FUNDS</i>	
		<i>£</i>		<i>2020</i>	<i>2019</i>
		<i>£</i>		<i>£</i>	<i>£</i>
Incoming resources from donors					
2a	Bankers orders to Personal Giving account	64,323	0	64323	59,833
	Tax refunds from all gift aid donations to STA	16,732	0	16732	18,485
	Planned giving made with weekly envelopes	545	0	545	1,680
	Cash collections at all services	4,148	47	4195	11,413
Total: 2a		85,748	47	85795	91,411
Other voluntary income resources					
2b	Donations	200	4,564	4764	8,106
	Votive Candles/Literature/Wallbox	0	1,852	1852	3,440
	Other Fund raising	0	6,948	6948	27,345
	Organ Appeal	0	33,944	33944	60,125
Halton 2b	Church Box	0	0	0	274
Total: 2b		200	47,309	47509	99,290
Income from charitable & ancillary trading					
2c	Fees	3,294	7,295	10589	17,174
	Hire of Church/Cottage	0	477	477	1,569
Total: 2c		3,294	7,772	11066	18,743
Other ordinary incoming resources					
2d	Funeral collections	0	1,208	1208	4,611
	Special collections	0	491	491	592
Total: 2d		0	1,700	1700	5,203
Extraordinary items					
2e		0	0	0	0
Total: 2e		0	0	0	0
Income from investments					
2f	Dividends and interest	2,529	39	2568	3,075
Total: 2f		2,529	39	2568	3,075
Total incoming resources before Legacies: 2a-f		91,771	56,866	148638	217,722
Legacies 2g	Total: 2g	66,245	14,077	80322	1,000
Total incoming resources: 2a-g		158,017	70,943	228960	218,722

3. EXPENDITURE

		<i>Unrestricted Expenditure</i>	<i>Restricted Expenditure</i>	<i>TOTAL FUNDS</i>	
		£	£	2020	2019
		£	£	£	£
Grants					
3a					
	PCC donations	0	491	491	592
	PCC grants	5,908	0	5908	6,012
	Funeral services	0	1,208	1208	4,611
Total: 3a		5,908	1,700	7608	11,216
Activities directly related to the activities of the church					
3b					
Ministry					
	– Parish Share + Dioc Serv Fees	77,998	5,046	83044	81,727
	– Vicarage	3,739	0	3739	2,318
	– Vicar	2,724	0	2724	3,057
	– Other Clergy	5,434	0	5434	2,801
Church and Services					
	– Building + building insurance	0	14,260	14260	19,420
	– Service requisites	1,765	400	2165	3,658
	– Music				
	Organ/Pianos	0	55	55	160
	Choir	0	1,150	1150	2,080
	Camerata	0	611	611	2,355
	Organists	0	5,509	5509	8,093
	Messy Church + Women's Fellowship	-5	128	123	1,085
	St Andrew's Cottage	0	2,099	2099	2,975
	Memorial Garden Engraving	227	0	227	0
Total: 3b		91,883	29,258	121141	129,730
Fund-raising and publicity					
3c					
	Cost of events	0	184	184	3,767
Total: 3c		0	184	184	3,767
Church management and administration					
3d					
	Copying, stationery and telephone	3,216	0	3216	4,303
	Bank charges + prof fees + misc	819	0	819	2,337
Total: 3d		4,035	0	4035	6,640
Repairs and maintenance					
3e					
	Miscellaneous		0	0	-368
Total: 3e		0	0	0	-368
Projects					
3f					
	Cottage Roof	0	14,938	14938	755
	Heritage			0	175
	Organ Renovation		89,540	89540	5,947
	Cottage Other		5,323	5323	0
	Quinquennial Inspection	0	0	0	408
Total: 3f		0	109,801	109801	7,285
Total expenditure: 3a–f		101,826	140,942	242768	158,270

4 STAFF COSTS	2020	2019
	£	£
Wages and Salaries	5,009	7,498

During the year, the PCC paid fees for organists and a pianist. None of the recipients were paid more than £50,000. No member of the PCC received any remuneration or benefit during the year.

5 INVESTMENTS

CBF CCLA 1S Investment Fund: Units = 853.05 Historic cost = £3,519. Market value at 31 Dec 2020 = **£17476.69** (31 Dec 2019 = **£16352.20**).

M&G Investment Fund. Units = 3033 Historic cost = £12,000. Market value at 31 Dec 2020 = **£41630.05** (31 Dec 2019 = **£50368.73**).

6 DEBTORS	2020	2019
Prepayments and Accrued Income		
Other Debtors		
– General		
Catholic Church	0	0
Prepayments/Accrued Income	1767	4,520
Gift Aid	1205	6,111
	2972	10,631

Gift Aid tax claimed has been accrued this year. This accrual is in line with guidance provided from PCC accountability and the Charities Act.

7 CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND	2020	2019
Bank		
– Corbridge PCC (Lloyds)	29,724	18,134
– Planned Giving	3,524	16,656
– Corbridge PCC (Barclays)	14,142	53,312
– Womens Fellowship	272	267
– Fabric	63,386	29,838
Petty Cash	5	160
	111,054	118,367

8 LIABILITIES: FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR	2020	2019
Accruals	8,723	9,722
	8,723	9,722

9 FUND DETAILS

The church maintains restricted funds for specific short and long term purposes for St Andrew's and Halton as well as those associated with specific fund raising initiatives and donations. Financial transactions in which the church is simply an intermediary, receiving and passing on charitable donations as in the cases of funeral services or "bucket" collections, are also treated as belonging to restricted funds.

10 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUND	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total
	£	£	£
Investments	59,107		59,107
Current Assets	73,806	55,060	128,866
Current Debtors	1,306	1666	2,972
Current Liabilities	(2,381)	(6,342)	(8,723)
	131,838	50,383	182,221

Restricted funds:

	Incoming resources		Outgoing resources		At 31 December 2020	
	At 1 January 2020					
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Projects (Fabric Fund)	42,145	15,784	20,261			37,668
Halton	7,088	100	0			7,188
Church Music	0	1,044	6,714	5,670		0
Building Running Costs	1,864	9,287	16,543	5,392		0
Funerals	0	1,208	1,208			0
Other Charities	0	491	491	0		0
PCC Charities	0	0	0			0
Local Emergency	1,159	0	0			1,159
Messy Church	426	47	128			345
Vicar/Churchwardens etc	1,206	0	0			1,206
Camerata	0	231	611	380		0
Heritage Boards	736	0	0			736
DBF	0	5,046	5,046	0		0
Organ Appeal	54,178	37,250	89,540			1,888
Other Minor	139	455	400			194
	108,940	70,943	140,942	11,442		50,383

Regular income such as standing order receipts, plate collections and parish fees tends to be "unrestricted". This means that the income can be used for any legitimate expenditure incurred subject to normal approval procedures. We carry unrestricted funds which represent the surplus of income over expenditure at any one point in time. These funds can obviously be applied to any legitimate purpose.

When finance which is to be applied to a particular object (for example the Organ Appeal) is received from a donor, it is "restricted" to that purpose. The money has, in effect, been given on condition that it will be spent in that way. Where, however, more money is collected for a particular object than we need, surplus funds can be applied to a purpose which is a "near hit". In the case of the Organ Appeal, for example, this could be some other form of music in the church subject to the approval of PCC. It is not normally possible to hold a negative fund. That would be a situation where we have spent more on a restricted object than we had received. In a case such as that, the shortfall would be made up out of unrestricted funds.

Within our total closing unrestricted funds for 2020 (£151,838), £66,245 came from a legacy. Although not restricted, this generous donation is to be "designated" (set aside) by PCC for specific purposes. Designation in this way allows PCC the flexibility to apply funds where most needed.

PCC Grants & Donations

	2017	2018	2019	2020
	£	£	£	£
Buque Family - Support for medical studies	1,169	1160	395	
Tearfund	1,346			
Christian Aid	580	117	115	
The Peoples Kitchen	433			
Royal British Legion	555	734	328	
The Children's Society	239	162		
Great North Childrens Hospital	348			
Church Urban Fund	1,416			
Marie Curie Hospice	1,346			
West End Regfugee Service	756			
Reaching The Unreached	756	876	1725	
Christians Against Poverty	756			
Nightstop		876	1725	
Stop Gap		876	1725	1096
Church Mission Society				1918
A Rocha UK				250
The Yohannes family				1644
Lighthouse Project				1000
	<u>9,700</u>	<u>4,801</u>	<u>6,012</u>	<u>5,908</u>

Note that the payments in 2017 made to Tearfund, Church Urban Fund and Marie Curie Hospice related to our 2016 programme

It is anticipated that a further £500 from the 2020 programme will be spent in support of the work of A Rocha UK during 2021

The benefit of gift aid will increase the value of the donations shown where collections were involved.

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, CORBRIDGE

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, CORBRIDGE

I report on the accounts of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31 December 2020 which are attached.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner.

As the members of the Parochial Church Council, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act) does not apply. It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of the procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 43(7)(b) of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report.

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners and to be found in the church guidance 2011 edition. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Parochial Church Council and a comparison of the accounts presented with these records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as members concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (a) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
- (i) To keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the act; and
 - (ii) To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act;
- have not been met; or
- (b) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

R Jones

Roger Jones

Dated:

31.3.2021