

ALL SAINTS, STRANTON CHURCH HARTLEPOOL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024



Rooted in God's love,
Growing together with Jesus,
Branching out in the power of the Spirit.

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Vicar's Report for Stranton Church 2024

2024 has been a very eventful year for Stranton Church, the Central Hartlepool Group and for the Church of England, both on a national and diocesan level. It has given us a lot to be thankful for, but also lots to reflect on and perhaps be challenged by too. Sadly we have said goodbye to a number of our dear friends over the course of 2024 including Arthur Moore, Doreen Lathan, Pamela Hutchinson, and Maureen Mitchell.

As always, there are so many people who are and have been involved in so many different aspects of church life here at Stranton that without all of you, our church would not continue to survive or thrive. So, I want to begin by saying how truly thankful I am for the love and support shown to me, and to all who have stepped out in service of our parish and across the wider group, over the last year, especially with so much going on. A particular thank you to Revd Andrew, Revd Kevin, and Revd Tony; to Mary and Linda – LLMs in the Group; to Angela, Rohan (to April 24) and Peter (from April 24) as churchwardens; David, our treasurer; Andrew, our Lay Vice Chair; Maureen our PCC Secretary; and Trish, our Parish Administrator, all of whom have helped keep me on track over the last year. But to all of you, as well, however you serve our church and community – thank you!

We began 2024 by starting to have a closer look at the Prayers of Love and Faith, what they are, and what that might mean for us as a parish church, and what it could mean for the wider Church of England too. Much is still to unfold regarding some of this, but I was very grateful for all those who attended the Lent course last year as we explored the Living in Love and Faith material. This proved very challenging for some, particularly here at Stranton, but I was thankful that after much prayer and deliberation, the PCC voted in favour of adopting the Prayers of Love and Faith, should we be approached by any couples wanting to acknowledge their love and commitment for one another in the church. Sadly, the challenge of this proved a little too much for a small number of our congregation, who chose to leave our church and go to worship elsewhere.

In February we said farewell to Bishop Paul, as he retired as our Diocesan Bishop. We also said farewell to Archdeacon Bob, as he took up his role as the Dean of Guildford Cathedral (and we wish him all the very best in this new role).

In April, three people from across the Group were confirmed at the Deanery Confirmation service (held this year in Hart). It was lovely to see people grow in their journey of faith, and especially lovely for me to see my son Daniel, among those confirmed. If confirmation is something you would like to explore then please do come and have a chat with me and we can explore this together.

We took the decision to stop Youth Fellowship on a Sunday Evening and move this into the main Sunday Service, welcoming Rebecca Bell onto the team leading activities for our Young People, in the Choir Vestry, while the children continued to meet in the Fulthorpe Chapel. We continue to pray for more children, young people, and young families to come and join our congregation, as well as more people to help lead our children and youth ministries.

In September we welcomed Becky and Patrick into the Group as Becky was licensed as Priest in Charge of St Aidan and St Columba (serving as I do, across the Central Group), Little did we know at the time that we would be appointing {Patrick into the role of Mission Enabler within our Group Mission Project later in the year.

We also had six members of our congregation undertake the Wings for Worship course in September and October 2024 – Rebecca Bell, Kate Lawson, Andrew & Jacqui Rogers, Pam Stockton, and Jordan Thornhill. The Wings for Worship course helps equip people to assist in our services, leading Services of the Word and preaching up to 6 times a year too, that is, of course, if they choose to serve in this way. For some, the Wings for Worship course, helps them in roles that they currently undertake, such as taking home communions out to members of our church, leading home groups, and so on. Hopefully we'll start to see some of them getting more involved in our Sunday Services, and perhaps even exploring whether or not God is calling them to something more. If you would be interested in doing this, or any of the other courses that the diocese has on offer, then please do come and speak to me.

In the wider Church of England, we have seen the resignation of Justin Welby, as Archbishop of Canterbury, as a result of revelations around safeguarding failings across all levels of the wider church. It's something which was very difficult to read about, but has had the effect of reminding us that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Here, I want to take the opportunity to thank Peter Hart for his service over many years as our Parish Safeguarding Officer. As Peter's other responsibilities meant he became less and less visible within the parish, it was clear to Peter and myself that we needed someone else to take up the mantle. And so we welcome Jacqui Rogers into the role (starting in early 2025). It's important that we have a PSO who is active within the church, easily recognisable, and committed to improving our Safeguarding within the Parish. During 2025, Jacqui and myself will be working together with the diocese to ensure our policies and processes are where they should be, especially when it comes to recruiting volunteers into roles within the church – a process designed to protect the most vulnerable in our communities, to protect the church, and to protect you, the volunteer, in the roles that you undertake.

During 2024, the PCC reviewed some of its governance procedures, updating the PCC Standing Orders, to bring clarity to a number of areas. The PCC also worked with St Matthew's Committee to review our working practices, in line with Charity Commission rules, to ensure we have a clearer idea of what St Matthew's Committee can undertake on behalf of the church, and where the PCC needs to be involved, and this will see some small changes being implemented in 2025 as we seek to work together to make some necessary repairs to our Community Centre, and give it a new lease of life.

Over the course of 2025 and beyond, we have much to look forward to. Stranton Church can trace its origins back to somewhere between the years 1120 and 1129. That means we are right in the middle of the window for our 900th anniversary, which we are hoping to begin building towards a big celebration in 2026. We are looking into renewing our vision for our church, and our community, asking questions around who we are, and who God wants us to be, as we seek to grow in relationship with him, go deeper in our faith, and reach out to those around us. We will also be looking at how we do church, and how we might want to do that differently – our worship, our service styles, whether we want or need to reorder the church to increase the adaptability and accessibility of our church building. These are questions we'll be asking, praying into, and seeking answers to, as we discern God's will for us in this coming period.

Above all, I continue to pray for the future of our church here in Hartlepool, for growth – both in numbers and in our depth of relationship and faith. I pray that God will equip each and everyone of us to serve His church in the way that He wants us to serve – reaching out into the community with the gifts and skills He gives us, asking Lord Jesus to show us his way.

In Grace and Peace,

Revd John (Priest in Charge)

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

All Saints, Stranton Church is situated in Church Row, Hartlepool TS24 7QT. It is part of the Diocese of Durham within the Church of England. The correspondence address is Stranton Church Office, St Matthew's Community Centre, Arncliffe Gardens Entrance, Hartlepool TS26 9JF.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission

PCC members who have served from 1st January 2024 until the date this report was approved are:

Priest in Charge: The Rev'd John Bell (*ex-officio*) Chairperson

Reader: Mary Tones (*ex-officio*)

Wardens: Mrs Angela Craig
 Mr Peter Anderson

Representatives on the Deanery Synod:

Mr Andrew Rogers

Mr Ken Shepherd

Elected members:

Mrs Maureen Anderson

Secretary

Mr Paul Anderson

Mr David Craig

Treasurer

Mrs Diane Greenwood

Mr David House

Miss Kate Lawson

Mrs Cheryl Mills

Mrs Jacqui Rogers

Mr Jordan Thornhill

from 28.04.2024

Mrs Mary Tones

The full PCC met eight times during the year with an average level of attendance of 71%. Committees met between meetings and minutes of their deliberations were received by the full PCC and discussed where necessary.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

ELECTORAL ROLL

This year, 2025, was when a new Electoral Roll has to be produced, the previous roll being closed.

All those on the previous Electoral Roll were sent a letter explaining the creation of a new Roll and how to complete a new application form.

The new Electoral Roll is now complete and displayed in Church.

The number on the new Roll is 54.

Ken Shepherd

Electoral Roll Officer

FINANCE REPORT

The Annual Accounts and report of the independent examiner are set out in pages 1-10 of the attached financial statements.

In 2024 we incurred a deficit on (unrestricted) General Fund of £4,940 and for St Matthews Community Centre a deficit (unrestricted) of £5,051, a total operating deficit of £9,991 (2023 – deficit £4014), that included the effects of some otherwise unfunded work on our major project for restoration of tower stonework and Clock faces.

In connection with the Tower project, an unrestricted bequest from the estate of the late RM Potter met the essential cost of the Tower Clock faces and hands restoration. On behalf of the Trustees (PCC) I acknowledge with a deep sense of gratitude not only this generous gift from that long-standing member of our congregation, but also the contributions of the various grant – making organisations listed in the Accounts whose support made the project not only possible but a success. The balance of cost was met by drawing down £56,939 from both capital and accumulated revenue reserves from our Custodian trust funds, leading to a one- off deficit on restricted funds of £51,495.

The deficit for St Matthew's Community Centre was due principally to a spike in heating costs last year, plus costly repairs including asbestos removal, whilst income was static.

The Central Hartlepool Group of Parishes mission project which we host continues to operate as a "Pass through" of funding from the Diocese: it is a restricted fund - see accounts note 10. A Diocesan "pass through" capital grant was made to St Aidans Church but is excluded from these accounts as the amounts are recognised in St Aidans Accounts.

These accounts also show that:

- We continued to receive generous regular and sustained financial support from committed members, including Gift Aid tax reclaims despite a reduction in income following some deaths and changes in personal circumstances.
- We met our requested and agreed Parish share payments to the Diocese in full.
- We maintained our support for CMS partners at the same level as in 2023.
- We continue our commitment to serving our local Community through the St Matthews Community Centre.

In presenting these accounts I also acknowledge the dedicated contributions made by many volunteers in providing freely of their time gifts and resources to the work of our Church. In financial management, we are blessed to have the support of a team of regular Cash Counters and our PCC Secretary as assistant treasurer and finance lead for the Community Centre: also to Andrew Rogers our PCC Lay Chair who is involved in supporting online banking controls, and everyone on the Building and Finance Subcommittee who contributed to the success of the Tower project, and to our accounts independent examiner Clive Rathbone

David Craig MA (Cantab) ACA: Hon Treasurer.

BUILDING AND FABRIC OF THE CHURCH

Thank you to everyone who, in the past year has in so many ways helped our Church and Community in Christian service. As Churchwardens we acknowledge and give thanks for the time and gifts dedicated by members in serving at Church and St Matthews Community Centre - practical tasks like providing refreshments, gardening, seasonal decorations, minor repairs, cleaning and maintenance, support for arranging and ordering services, leading worship and children's activities, reading, praying and meeting for various committees : a big 'Thank you' from the Churchwardens particularly to Rohan Wanduragala and David House our assisting churchwardens for their continued help and support.

Thanks to all who have taken up roles with leading and developing our young people and the support given to this by Jordan, Mary, Hayley (for the Group "Mission project"), Kate and other helpers with our young people.

Buildings:

- The major focus in 2024 was restoration of substantial parts of the Tower stonework and refurbishment of the clock hands and faces. We were assisted in this with the application of a generous bequest from the estate of the late Dick Potter, which enabled us to re-gild the tower clock hands and faces. The finance and building committee took a lead from January onwards in project management grant, applications and decision making that enabled the work to be completed just in time for Christmas, and very close to original budget.
- Routine Inspections/servicing were completed as required for clock, central heating, fire extinguisher and intruder alarm systems.
- Periodic fixed wire testing in Church is now due and will be carried out in 2025.
- The Church Office was moved internally into the ASDA room at St Matthews Community Centre providing better usable space and meeting amenities, and better broadband coverage is now in place:
- There is a considerable backlog of maintenance in the St Matthews Community Centre which the Churchwardens and PCC will support the Committee in addressing.
- An inspection of articles (communion plate, furniture and equipment) belonging to the church (terrier) has been done (May 2025) .

- Minor maintenance tasks including gutter and fall pipe checks and path cleaning are carried out as required and in accordance with a routine maintenance schedule recorded in the Church Logbook.
- Church yard and flower borders: Our thanks to the Council for maintaining the church grounds and rose beds and checking on safety of gravestones, and grass cutting.
- Thanks go to Camerons Brewery for their co-operation in managing our shared car parking, and in keeping a weather eye on our security.
- Thanks also to Pam Stockton for looking after the flower beds that line our churchyard path.

Health and safety report

Health and Safety Audit of the church was carried out most recently in May 2025. The following matters are noted from that inspection:

- The tower ladder and hatch for roof access do not meet current safety regulations for working at height: this area is not accessible to the public: restricted area and hard hat warning signs are in place.
- The larger expansion tank fitted to the Central Heating system has significantly reduced over spill and wet and slippery conditions at the boiler house steps; the steps to the boiler house do not have a handrail, but this is not a public area.
- The redundant basement boiler at St Matthews Community Centre has been cleared in line with asbestos removal regulations.

No new hazards were found.

Angela Craig, Peter Anderson
Churchwardens

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

The Synod met twice during 2024, in February and November. The venue changes for each Synod as we try to visit all areas of the Deanery. The February Synod, for example, was held at St Luke's; while the November event was at St Oswald's.

The format is similar to other meetings, starting with prayer, apologies for absence, minutes of the previous meeting etc. Then follows either a guest speaker or a discussion of current topics of interest.

During the February Synod we discussed the Vacancy in See process. At the time the Diocesan Profile was being written, we all agreed this was not an easy task. Area Dean Janet shared with us +Paul's emotional address to the clergy grieving over the lack of children and young people in churches today. There were some bright spots in the Deanery, Hart's 3@4 and Stranton's Messy Church were still going strong, but there was still much to achieve.

Janet's also keen to include a section not just with parish news but also "we tried this" to share experiences and initiatives. Some events included Holy Trinity's Lent Course being a Lecto Divina, Hart & Elwick holding a Time and Space reflective time and the Central Group's discussions around Living in Love and Faith.

For the November Synod, we were due to have Amy Burns from Cuthbert House Diocesan Transformation Team to come to talk to us, but unfortunately she had to cancel due to ill health. So we spent some time on reporting feedback for the recent Diocesan Synod with an emphasis on safeguarding that had been planned before the publication of the Makin Review and its consequent fall out. So the timing was rather apposite.

Following this discussions took place around the topics of "What do we not have?" "What inspires new members?" and "why do we worship?"

The Deanery Synod continues to be a valuable space where information can be disseminated, both up and down, along with being a non-threatening event where new ideas can be discussed.

Andrew Rogers

SAFEGUARDING - CHILD AND VULNERABLE ADULT PROTECTION

During 2024, the national church has been rocked by a number of safeguarding issues that have come out in various independent reports. Unfortunately, this led to the resignation of the Archbishop of Canterbury, reiterating the point that *safeguarding is everybody's responsibility!*

Throughout the year, time has been invested in trying to keep our Parish Safeguarding Dashboard up to date and populating some of the additional details, as well as ensuring all training is up to date. The dashboard is a very useful multi-tiered tool which helps us to understand those areas that need some additional consideration and those where we have everything in order. As always with the nature of this type of tool, there will always be some areas where further updating is needed but it is proving to be a very helpful resource.

Over the course of 2024, I have continued to work with the diocese and with Peter Hart in ensuring our Safeguarding policies and processes are both up to date and being effectively implemented, especially in the area of Safer Recruitment, where we are ensuring that anyone recruited to any role within the church has the appropriate paperwork in place for this. Myself and Peter, alongside the Diocesan Team have continued to manage any safeguarding incidents and concerns as they have arisen throughout the year, and I have invested time speaking to people as possible replacements for Peter Hart, who was happy to remain in the role until someone else was found. I am glad to report that at the beginning of 2025, I was approached by Jacqui Rogers, who, having given it a lot of thought and consideration, agreed to take on the role, and was subsequently appointed by the PCC in early 2025.

With that in mind, I'd like to extend my grateful thanks to Peter for all the work he did as our Safeguarding Officer in 2024 (and for many years prior to that), and to Jacqui, for being willing to step into the role as a visible presence within our church community.

As ever, we can't respond to any concerns if we don't know about them, so if you see or hear anything which gives you cause for concern, please contact the Parish Safeguarding Officer, Jacqui Rogers, myself, or the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer, Beth Miller - contact details are on the noticeboard in church and on our notice sheets.

Revd John

GATHERED WORSHIP IN STRANTON PARISH

There is a regular pattern of worship services across the parish, both weekly and monthly. The services are held in Church and St Matthew's Hall. Each service has its own characteristics. We hope and pray that there is something for those who have been part of a worshipping community for a long time and those attending for the first time. The pattern is summarised as follows –

Stranton Church

Sundays

9:00	Holy Communion	A quiet said service using traditional liturgy
11:00	Morning Worship	Each Sunday has a different characteristic. Generally the services are relaxed and welcoming including a mix of contemporary music and hymns.
	Holy Communion	1 st and 3 rd Sundays include communion
	Lighthouse Service	4 th Sunday, Lighthouse is a good service to try if you are new to church, it includes welcomes for families wanting baptism.
	(provision for all ages)	

St Matthew's Community Centre

4:00 second Sunday of month	Messy Church	A service for families based around craft, story and sharing tea together
10:00 Wednesday	Holy Communion	A said midweek communion in a more accessible venue.

WORSHIP TEAM

While still playing an important role in our services, the worship team is smaller than in previous years. Lots of factors have played a part in this, and it's part of the ebb and flow of this type of role in the church. I'm there most weeks and I've been joined by a good mixture of people, including Sophie, Lorelai, Luke, and, occasionally, Mary and David.

Despite reduced numbers, I do think the worship is trying to branch out more in the church. We're soon to have two Worship 24/7 events in the church and we're actively trying to make the worship more engaging for people on a Sunday morning. Lorelai has grown in confidence lots over the past year, and it's been great to see how much she's developed.

My hope for the next year is that we see renewed numbers in church and that the worship can connect with those that experience it. We've introduced Waymaker this year, and I think we need to cling to the bridge "Even when I don't see it, you're working" - it's seemed quiet at times, but that doesn't mean that something isn't stirring under the surface!

Jordan Thornhill

CENTRAL HARTLEPOOL GROUP MISSION TEAM

It has been a busy and fruitful year for the project. Emma Cain moved onto pastures new, we wish her well.

With regard to children and families across the group, the work continues to grow. There are the 2 weekly school RE Clubs at Jesmond Garden Primary and Stranton Primary Schools as well as regular assemblies taken at St Aidan's, Ward Jackson, Jesmond Garden and Rift House Primary School. In addition as requested there have been Harvest, Christmas, and Easter Celebrations in church for Jesmond Garden and Stranton Primary Schools.

At Christmas we held the second Christmas Tree Festival at St Columba's. Over 100 people came during the 2 days it was open. We were able to provide 60 Christmas hampers for families in need.

Toddler's continues to be held during term time on a Tuesday morning at St Matthew's Community Centre. We would welcome more volunteers to help with the snack or setting up the hall. Please get in touch with Patrick or myself if you are interested.

In association with Hartlepool Council we have run a 4 day Easter holiday Club and an 8 day Summer holiday Club for needy families. They not only have the opportunity to do numerous crafts and games but also to hear the Easter Story and stories about Jesus. So they learn something of the gospel they might not otherwise have the opportunity to do.

Most recently a new weekly initiative started in March called 'The Fireplace' at St Luke's. It is early days yet, however the aim is to reach out to families in the local community on Friday afternoons/evenings by providing a weekly Faith Café Craft drop in and a monthly Faith Movie night. You can look on The Communities of Hope Facebook page for more details.

In summary there is a lot going on. As usual my sincere thanks to all the volunteers who help with this valuable outreach, giving of their time and prayers. Without them it couldn't happen.

Hayley Liversidge, Communities Children and Families Worker

MESSY CHURCH

Messy Church for families is on the second Sunday of the month at 4-5.30pm in St Matthew's Hall (except for December when we have a Messy Christingle Service in church.) The families who attend are a mix of those who attend the 11am service at Stranton, those who only attend Messy church and those who are invited to attend a service prior to a Welcome or Baptism of children. Attendance varies between thirty to forty plus people in total, some families have been attending for several years and there is always potential for developing deeper relationships and growth with support.

We play table games until everyone has arrived, then we tell a Bible story, say a prayer and sing a song. After this there are activities and crafts to complete based on the story, before we have a scrumptious tea together, provided by Maureen and Peter. This Spring we have told the story of boy Jesus staying behind in the temple, Jesus' Baptism and the calling of the Disciples. Last Autumn we enjoyed 'I am the bread of life', 'I am the Good Shepherd,' and 'I am the light of the world'.

The Messy Church team is small but committed, many thanks to Hayley Liversidge, Peter, Maureen, Tyler and Lorelei Anderson, Daniel Bell, Rev. John and Diana Wanduragala. Thanks also to Trish for help with photocopying etc for crafts. Also to Helen Threfall-Williams and Gill Siddons for helping out this Spring when I was unavailable. Any help to set up tables, chairs etc from 3 pm, help with crafts and activities and socialise with families from 4 pm, wash up or tidy away from 4.30 pm would be gratefully accepted!

Mary Tones

SUNDAY CLUB

Sunday Club has changed over the course of this year with the introduction of an older group (Youth Fellowship) which has improved the differentiated content for older and younger members of the group. Unfortunately, numbers have been low and variable with 0-6 children attending at times. This inconsistency in attendance led us to change how we plan the curriculum and use Scripture Union Light Resources. This has helped to support leaders in the planning of sessions.

I would like to thank all of the leaders and helpers for Sunday Club this year, who have volunteered their time to help. Thank you to Mary, Pam, Gill and Helen.

We are continuing to try to find more volunteers to help with Sunday Club to either lead sessions or support them as a helper. We continue to pray that our Sunday Club grows in numbers, love and faith.

Kate Lawson



It has been my pleasure to lead YF over the last year. We moved from meeting on a Sunday evening to meeting together on a Sunday morning during the service. Most young people were coming along in the morning and Sunday Club covered a wide range of ages. As a result we split the groups, Sunday Club year 5 and younger and YF year 6 and above.

We have a wonderful group of young people, small in number, 7 on a busy week, but full of faith and fun and curiosity. We began meeting in the vestry with David and Peter and Lisa helping out and now meet in the Fulthorpe Chapel alongside Sunday Club.




We enjoyed learning about the story of the whole bible, beginning to end using the 6 Beats youth resources from the Bible Society and we moved on to look at communion, what it is, how it points to God and how it can be an expression of our faith. Some of our young people decided they wanted to begin receiving communion and so this was good preparation.

Every week we meet with each other in friendship and respect, coming to learn more about God and having a safe place to ask the important questions of life.

We look forward to more time together in the coming year and expanding our activities to social events outside of Sunday.

Thank you to all who support our young people and to all the parents committed to helping their young people in their faith journey.

Rebecca Bell

	2 nd STRANTON Hartlepool BROWNIES		10 th STRANTON Hartlepool GUIDES		2 nd STRANTON Hartlepool RANGERS
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A big change during 2024 was the opening of our Ranger unit for the girls 14+. We had 3 girls who wished to stay in Girlguiding, with other commitments a change of night was not possible! Hartlepool GG supported this addition, we are hoping it will allow more girls to stay in Guiding,

The numbers in Brownies and Guides have remained constant, we would like to have more girl aged 7-10yrs, to have the freedom of a girl only space, where they can develop skills, they will require in life.

During the year we have followed the Girlguiding programme – covering Take Action, Express Myself, Skills for the Future, Have Adventure, Be Well and Know Myself. We have also attended two parade service on Palm Sunday and Harvest Festival, brought down decorations the girls made for Harvest Festival and Remembrance Day, when they were on Parade at the Cenotaph. We have attended Division events for World Thinking Day, 50 years of Cleveland Girlguiding Fun day, Cinema, Campfire and Disco. We have had the opportunity to do many crafts during the year, outdoor cooking which the girls love doing and a big favourite on the last night of the year Sandcastle and Chips at Seaton! We have had two Fun Days, on a Sunday, at St Matthew's Community Centre, with lots of activities, crafts and games. For food the one in May was picnic style with pizzas salad, cakes etc and December was a full Christmas Dinner. We open this event to Norton Brownies and Guides as they invite us to go the camp with them. The camp was at Cleveland Scouts centre at Castleton in July,

We completed a number of Fun Challenge Badges during the year – children in Need, Leap Year, Elephants od Cambodia, Olympics and Egton. A highlight of the year was the follow up visit to Alice House, which allowed the girls to see what the £600 they raised the previous year, went to support in the centre. At this meeting, we enrolled 3 Brownies, 1 Guides and our first enrolment of Rangers – the 3 girls renewed their Promise as a Ranger – a very proud moment for all Leaders.

As the summer holidays approached, plus a lot of fundraising by Iona, Lara and the units, saw Lara go to Larne to attend the Girlguiding event called Ice and Iona go the Roverway in Norway a World Jamboree representing our units, Hartlepool and North East England Girlguiding. They had a wonderful time, met lots of new girls from around the UK and the world. A wonderful opportunity for them both. They gave a presentation on their return.

We thank the Hall committee and Church for the support that they give the Brownies, Guides & Rangers during the year.

Cheryl Mills (Leader)



This year we have continued to offer places for 24 girls, in an environment where they can develop their self-confidence, make new friends and learn new skills – all while getting their hands dirty with arts and crafts, getting in touch with nature and playing games.

The girls have worked hard meeting the aims of the Girlguiding programme, and we have given out a wonderful number of Rainbow Bronze and Silver Awards, as well as an

astonishing 5 Gold Awards – which is the highest achievement a Rainbow can get and is, even if we say so ourselves, an absolutely huge deal.

We held a Science themed Summer camp day, where we had a tonne of outdoor fun, had a blast with some exciting experiments and ended the day with a huge campfire, and toasted marshmallows of course!

We have made full use of the kitchen facilities at St Matthews this year and tried our hand at baking jam tarts and preparing and eating delicious fruit salads.

Our Christmas party was a huge success with a visit from Father Christmas himself.

As part of the wider division, we take part in a number of Girlguiding activities and traditions including: Thinking Day, Division Campfire, Cinema trips, Circus activity day. Where the girls get to meet people from all sections and develop their understanding of what it means to be a part of Girlguiding, locally, nationally and internationally.

This is all possible through the dedication of the three leaders Vikki, Sarah and Laura, and the invaluable support of our parent helpers Kirsty, Vicky and Suzanne, not to mention our fabulous young leaders Nina and Grace.

Our aim for the coming year is to secure additional funds which will help us to purchase new resources to enrich the experiences for our girls further, as well as delivering sessions which allow the girls to grow, reflect and engage with themselves and others

Vikki Richardson
Leader with Rainbows



4th Hartlepool Boys Brigade
Founded 1930
HQ - St. Matthews Community Centre
Find us on Facebook



Leaders – we have kept all our leaders from last session and after safe guarding checks were applied we have now recruited a new leader Mr Declan Moore who is currently serving in the Juniors.

Anchor Boys – we started at a low base (2) and now we have 12 regular names on our list. We have changed our uniform to a red polo shirt which is smarter than the previous T Shirt uniforms.

Juniors – we have progressed very well and have 20 names on our register, again we have changed our uniform to a Blue Polo shirt.

We have several year 6 Boys who will be promoted to our Company in May.

Company we have 16 names on our list this means we have kept most of our Lads from the previous session and any loss has been replaced by new members joining.

High Lights

Company Wide we have held a Carol Service, supported the Harvest Festival Service and Easter Eggheads and the St. Matthews Annual Clear up.

Devotions – throughout the year we have looked at Harvest Noah, various proverbs, The Boys Brigade Vesper and the Romans and Jesus.

Anchor Boys high lights include Super heroes night, visit to Stranton Church and a variety of crafts based on the bible story we do in devotions.

Juniors – have been visited by the Police and Captain Wells from the TA (Remembrance Day talk)

They have visited Seaton Stranton Church McDonalds, Crimdon dene and the Blue Lagoon.

Company enjoyed Camp at Hesley Woods Scout Centre South Yorkshire, visited Wolviston , the beach, Blue Lagoon and Castle Eden Dene.

Stranton and St. Matthew's

At this moment we are busy compiling a Mission, Hopes and Expectations Statement which once it is decided we will present to Rev J Bell and members of the Hall Committee and publish in some form in Sign post.

Going Forward – we hope to increase our numbers and quality of the programme we offer to all our members – so that lifelong friendships can be made (Including with Jesus).

George Bainbridge, Leader in Charge, 4th Hartlepool Boys Brigade

PASTORAL GROUP

The team comprises Cheryl Mills, Gill Siddons, Ian Walker, Rohan Wanduragala and myself, with Diana Wanduragala as an associate member, and we hold regular meetings, attended by Revd John whenever he is able. In order to continue in this capacity, we have had to review and change procedures in order to meet new Safeguarding regulations and each undergo regular Safeguarding training as required in relation to our particular role in supporting vulnerable people. The Wings for Worship course was also a useful tool this year in providing greater knowledge and understanding relating to the role some of us undertake in the ministry of providing home communion.

We continue to maintain regular contact with members of our congregation who cannot get to church and with others who appreciate some support or company. This may be in the form of home visits, home communion, telephone calls, meeting for walks or coffee or other ad hoc support, as well as Christmas and Easter cards. Most of those we visit are living at home, whilst some live in local care homes. Others have spells in hospital or care homes during times of illness or special need and, during these times, we make every effort to maintain contact and make visits to them.

Our aim is to maintain links to, and inclusion in, the church community for those who, often after many years of faithful attendance and service, are no longer physically able to attend church services on a regular basis. Those links are also strengthened by the regular delivery of weekly notice sheets by Angela and David Craig and Ian Walker, as well as copies of 'Signpost' and bible notes by a wider church team. A lot of informal or impromptu pastoral care is provided by fellow members of the congregation and by the leadership team, all of us working together to maintain a watchful eye on our congregations to identify anyone who may need support.

There are cards at the back of church which can be used by anyone wanting to request pastoral support either for themselves or others.

Pam Stockton

BELLRINGING REPORT

We continue to practice at Stranton on a fortnightly basis. Attendance at practices is usually around 10-12 but has been as high as 20 on occasion.

For the most part we have been ringing for the 11:00 service on a fortnightly basis (whilst ringing for St Aidan's Sunday service every other week). As the bells at St Aidan's have been undergoing restoration work for the last three months, we have been able to ring for Stranton's Sunday service on a weekly basis during this period (although we expect the work at St Aidan's to be complete within the next four weeks).

We are making steady progress in our ringing with method ringing consuming an increasingly larger proportion of our practice nights.

It is encouraging that we have a healthy number of young ringers within our ranks.

Special thanks to Elspeth for supporting bell handling and foundation training that has made a significant improvement to general handling techniques and striking within the band.

Ringling at Stranton was suspended between September to December owing to the tower restoration work, we are very pleased to be back ringling these bells regularly again upon completion of this work.

Going forward, we will continue to try our very best to accommodate wedding ringling at Stranton as well as ringling for special services on request

Joseph Wilson

Stranton Tower Captain

ST MATTHEW'S COMMUNITY CENTRE ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT

During 2024, we welcomed Ken Shepherd and Cheryl Mills onto the committee, and we are very grateful that Cheryl has taken over the role of SMCC Secretary, from Jack. Our thanks go once again to Maureen who looks after the St Matthew's finances and Trish who manages the various bookings. Thanks also to everyone on the committee, who all contribute so effectively to the running and upkeep of the building, making improvements all the time.

Over the course of the year, work has been carried out on the basement to clear it of asbestos, but critical work on the roof still needs to be undertaken – it has proven difficult to get the necessary quotes for the work, but we continue to progress this.

The timing of our meetings is always going to be inconvenient for some members but I hope they will accept that, for the moment at least, Wednesday afternoons seem to be the preferred option.

Throughout the year, we have been working with Stranton PCC to forge closer links, partly required under charity law with the PCC as the trustees, and partly to clarify the role and remit of SMCC within the management of St Matthew's. This process continues into 2025 and it is hoped that this will be a positive move for both church and community members of the committee. It will see a move towards the committee being chaired by a member of the PCC as we move forward. During 2025, we hope to continue to work with the PCC to seek greater understanding of both our own vision for St Matthew's, and the PCC's vision for the Church and its wider mission and outreach.

I close wishing my successor all good wishes for the future.

George Bainbridge

I would like to add my sincere thanks to George for all the hard work he puts into St Matthew's, and for the years he has chaired our committee. I hope he will continue to serve the committee, the community, and the Boys Brigade for some time to come. Revd John

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish
of
All Saints, Stranton**

Registered Charity No. 1134753

Accounts for the Year to 31 December 2024

Independent Examiner's Certificate for Stranton PCC Accounts: Charity Number: 1134753

I report to the trustees of: All Saints Stranton Parochial Church Council on accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act), and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

Independent examiner's statement:

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

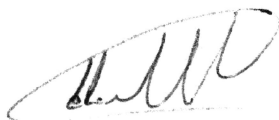
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the following requirements have not been met:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act;
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with
- the accounting requirements of the Charities Act;
- to account for statutory fees correctly.

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

Signed:



Clive Rathbone

Date: May 10 2025

21 Wolviston Road, Hartlepool

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All Saints Stranton Parochial Church Council

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2024

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL 2024	FUNDS 2023
Incoming resources	Note:					
Incoming resources from donors	2a	61,514	8,765	-	70,279	80,470
Other voluntary incoming resources	2b	29,573	106,902	-	136,475	72,908
Income from charitable and ancillary trading	2c	31,362	-	-	31,362	28,851
Other ordinary incoming resources	2d	1,358	-	-	1,358	-
Income and realised gains from investments	2e, 10	790	-	5,444	6,233	6,782
Total incoming resources		124,596	115,667	5,444	245,707	189,011
Resources Expended						
Grants to Home and overseas mission and other charities	3a	4,914	-	-	4,914	5,100
Activities Directly relating to the work of the Church	3b	111,781	115,404	56,939	284,124	161,761
Fund Raising and Publicity	3c	-	-	-	-	-
Church Management and Administration	3d	17,892	-	-	17,892	20,201
Total resources Expended		134,588	115,404	56,939	306,931	187,062
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources: Church (see also note 10)		-4,940				
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources: Community Centre		-5,051	-9,991	263	-51,495	-61,223
						1,435
Other Net Gains/losses: Investment revaluations (unrealised)	10	-	-	2,885	2,885	11,526
Net movement in funds		-9,991	263	-48,610	-58,338	12,961
Balances Brought Forward at 1 January 2024		111,920	95,235	189,154	396,309	383,348
Balances Carried Forward at 31 December 2024		101,929	95,498	140,544	337,971	396,309

All Saints Stranton Parochial Church Council

Statement of Financial Position at 31 December 2024

	Note:	2024	2023
			8,379
Fixed Assets			179,974
Tangible fixed Assets	5a	182,177	182,770
Investment Assets	5b, 10	131,184	171,595
		<u>313,362</u>	<u>354,365</u>
Current Assets			
Debtors and prepaid expenses	7	40,038	13,429
Short Term Deposits		437	8,624
Cash at Bank and in Hand		28,512	67,075
		<u>68,987</u>	<u>89,128</u>
Liabilities: Amounts falling due within one year	8	44,378	47,184
Deferred grant and donation revenues	8	-	-
Net Current (Liabilities)/ Assets		<u>44,378</u>	<u>47,184</u>
Net Assets		<u>337,971</u>	<u>396,309</u>
Funds:	6, 9, 10		
Unrestricted reserves: General, Buildings and Community Centre	9	101,928	111,920
Restricted reserves (Buildings and Organ fund)	9	95,498	95,235
Endowment reserves	10	140,544	189,154
Total Reserves		<u>337,971</u>	<u>396,309</u>

Approved by resolution of the Parochial Church Council, dated

28th April 2025

Rev'd. John G Bell (Chairman)

Mr David Craig (Hon. Treasurer)

All Saints Stranton Parochial Church Council Year to 31 December 2024

Note 1 - Accounting policies

1a) Basis of Preparation

These Accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of certain assets. They have been prepared to meet the requirements of the Church Accounting Regulations 2011 together with applicable Accounting Standards, the Charities Acts 2011 and 2016 and Statements of Recommended Practice. They have been prepared on an accruals basis to match income and related expenditure relating to the year under review. The statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible. Financial statements for various Church related activities or groups for which the PCC is not responsible are not included. Subsidiary Financial statements for the activities of the St Matthews Community Centre which are consolidated in these Accounts are available separately. The Accounts include the Endowment Trust Funds held and administered for the benefit of the PCC by the Diocese of Durham, as custodian Trustees.

1b) Fixed Assets

Fixed Assets are stated at cost: freehold land and buildings are not depreciated as in the view of the PCC the effect of depreciation of these assets would not be material to an appreciation of the PCC's financial position. Office and computer equipment furniture and fixtures are depreciated using a straight line method over a period (generally 4-5 years) estimated to reflect the useful economic life of the Assets.

1c) Investments

Investments are revalued annually and carried at the lower of realisable and current market value, the difference between cost and carrying value is recorded in a revaluation reserve where the value is greater than original cost: a provision is made for each investment asset for which the market value is less than its original cost. Reserves and provisions are not netted off. Endowment investments are revalued to lower of market or realisable value annually by the custodian trustees and any difference adjusted against endowment reserve.

1d) Stocks

Inventory (where material) is stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value and written off as expenditure when issued.

1e) Debtors

Amounts receivable are stated at the value prudently expected to be realised. Full or partial provision is made for bad or doubtful debts as soon as they become apparent.

1f) Liabilities, Provisions, deferred income and capital grants

Full estimates are made of income and capital grants received in advance and of outstanding liabilities incurred in the course of the PCC's Activities, and provision made in compliance with current relevant Financial Reporting Standards and recommended charity practice.

1g) Pensions

Paid Staff employed by the PCC (i.e. who are not stipendiary clergy licensed by the Diocese of Durham) who are eligible for Workplace pension are offered membership of the Defined Contribution Scheme operated for the PCC by Peoples Pension (formerly B&CE), this scheme complies with the national legal membership requirements and contribution rates for workplace pensions.

1h) Employment

During 2024 The PCC employed four part time (two church and two project) and four Sessional (occasional. Hourly paid) staff. The Church's policy is to review pay annually by benchmarking and to ensure that as a minimum the rate of National Living Wage is maintained.

All Saints Stranton Parochial Church Council

Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 December 2024

	2024 Total	2024 Unrestricted	2024 Restricted	2024 Endowment see note 10	2023 Total
Operating activities					
Operating Deficit (2023 - surplus)	-61,223	-9,991	263	-51,495	1,435
add (deduct) items not involving movement of funds: Depreciation	1,610	1,610	-	-	1,407
realised gains on sale of investment assets	-238	-	-	-238	-
Increase/(Decrease) in Creditors	-2,807	-2,807	-	-	-32,671
(Increase)/Decrease in Debtors	-26,609	-26,609	-	-	58,719
Cash utilised in operations	-89,267	-37,797	263	-51,733	28,890
Investing activities					
Cash generated from realisation of Custodian Endowment assets	48,740	-	-	48,740	-
Cash invested in fixed assets	-1,017	-1,017	-	-	-
Grants & donations (released from) / transferred to deferred income	-	-	-	-	-
total cash movements (Outflow) from Operating and Investing activities	-41,544	-38,814	263	-2,993	28,890
Represented by:					
Church Current account (decrease) in balances	-38,563	-38,814	251	-	21,083
Deposit account (decrease) in balances	-8,187	-	12	-8,199	2,346
Increase in endowment cash balances (Custodian balances)	5,206	-	-	5,206	11
Net Movement in liquid balances	-41,544	-38,814	263	-2,993	28,890

All Saints Stranton Parochial Church Council

Notes to the Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024

2 Incoming resources	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL 2024	TOTAL 2023
<i>2a Incoming resources from donors</i>					
Planned Giving					
Gift Aided					
Income Tax recoverable on Gift Aid inc donations	36,785	-	-	36,785	40,240
other income tax recoverable	9,196	-	-	9,196	10,060
other Voluntary giving	-	-	-	-	-
Other collections	10,299	-	-	10,299	16,215
Gift Day	5,233	-	-	5,233	5,467
Funds reallocation: Olive branch	-	-	-	-	-
Mission project - Other income	-	1,473	-	1,473	-
	-	7,292	-	7,292	8,488
	61,514	8,765	-	70,279	80,470
<i>2b Other voluntary incoming resources</i>					
Grants					
Tower restoration grants	1,588	48,488	-	50,076	4,531
Bell restoration appeal Grants - incl LPOW VAT	-	-	-	-	-
Mission project - External Grants	-	1,500	-	1,500	1,695
Mission project - SDF funding via Diocese	-	36,945	-	36,945	59,528
Appeals etc	-	172	-	172	-
Legacies and Donations,	27,818	15,280	-	43,098	-309
Income tax recoverable on Gift Aided Donations	-	3,820	-	3,820	7,463
Fundraising	167	698	-	865	-
	29,573	106,902	-	136,475	72,908
<i>2c Income from Charitable and ancillary Trading</i>					
Magazines and book sales	3	-	-	3	-
Lettings (Halls etc) contribution	18,611	-	-	18,611	20,485
Fees	5,700	-	-	5,700	5,480
Rents receivable and other income	7,048	-	-	7,048	2,886
	31,362	-	-	31,362	28,851
<i>2d Other ordinary incoming resources</i>					
Contributions to secretarial costs	-	-	-	-	-
Insurance claims	1,358	-	-	1,358	-
	1,358	-	-	1,358	-
<i>2e Income from investments</i>					
Dividends, interest and bonuses (See note 10)	790	-	8,329	9,119	6,782
Total Incoming Resources:	124,596	115,667	8,329	248,592	189,011

All Saints Stranton Parochial Church Council

Notes to the Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024

3. Resources Expended

3a Grants made

Missionary and Charitable Giving

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL 2024	TOTAL 2023
Overseas mission	3,232	-	-	3,232	3,750
Relief & development agencies	-	-	-	-	-
Home missions and other Church Societies	1,683	-	-	1,683	1,350
	4,914	-	-	4,914	5,100

3b Activities directly related to the work of the Church

Ministry:

Parish Share	40,714	-	-	40,714	38,775
Communities of Hope Hartlepool Staff costs	-	35,565	-	35,565	46,962
Communities of Hope other operating costs	-	11,816	-	11,816	22,749
Staff expenses,	1,728	-	-	1,728	1,759
Property costs incl house repairs	3,350	-	-	3,350	281
Church running expenses, excl hall recharge	14,875	-	-	14,875	12,512
Church repairs and maintenance	32,224	63,918	56,939	153,080	7,930
Recruitment and training costs incl DBS certification	-	-	-	-	201
Ministry costs excluding Pay cost -Community worker	-	-	-	-	722
Magazine - costs included in Stationery	-	-	-	-	-
Church hall running costs	18,890	-	-	18,890	14,446
Professional fees,surveys etc. For repairs	-	4,105	-	4,105	-
Parish lay worker remuneration	-	-	-	-	7,875
Cost of parish events	-	-	-	-	-
Deferred Income to 2022 Bells restoration (see note 2b)	-	-	-	-	-
Current and accrued Expenditure - Bells restoration	-	-	-	-	7,548
	111,781	115,404	56,939	284,124	161,761

3c Fundraising and publicity

costs associated with generating funds	-	-	-	-	-
3c Fundraising and publicity	-	-	-	-	-

3d Church management and administration

Administration costs incl pension contribution, and expenses	12,392	-	-	12,392	13,713
Stationery and printing	1,437	-	-	1,437	1,620
Hall overhead	2,175	-	-	2,175	3,059
Depreciation equipment & computers	1,610	-	-	1,610	1,407
Bank Charges	279	-	-	279	402
Legal and professional fees / costs .	-	-	-	-	-
	17,892	-	-	17,892	20,201

Total Resources Expended:

134,588	115,404	56,939	306,931	187,062
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All Saints Stranton Parochial Church Council

Notes to the Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024

4. Staff costs

Clergy stipends are paid by the Diocese: all other remuneration shown under note 3b and 3d was paid to the Parish lay worker, parish administrator and October 2020 to the staff working on behalf of the Central Hartlepool Group of Parishes in the Central Hartlepool Mission project (formerly Communities Hope), a project funded by the Diocese of Durham.

Staff remuneration includes social security costs and pension contributions made under a defined benefit scheme operated by Peoples Pension

5. Fixed Assets

5a Tangible fixed Assets

		Freehold Land And Buildings	Equipment, fixtures and IT	TOTAL
Gross book value	At 1 January 2024	178,551	48,866	227,417
	Revaluations	-	-	-
	Disposals	-	-	-
	Additions:		1,017	1,017
	Capital Grants applied	-	-	-
	At 31 December 2024	<u>178,551</u>	<u>49,883</u>	<u>228,433</u>
Depreciation	At 1 January 2024		44,647	44,647
	Disposals		-	-
	Charge for the year/impairment		1,610	1,610
	At 31 December 2024		<u>46,256</u>	<u>46,256</u>
Net Book Value	At 31 December 2024	178,551	3,627	182,177
	At 31 December 2023	178,551	4,219	182,770

Freehold land and buildings comprise St Matthew's Community Hall, and staff house accommodation at 10 Clarkson Court:

Other Tangible Fixed assets are amortised over periods estimated to reflect their economic lives from the date of acquisition, generally 4 to 5 years. Assets scrapped/sold are disposals

The Church building is not included in the statement of financial position as it has no historic cost record. Church buildings are insured for reinstatement costs

The Audio Equipment installed in church in 2020 has been subject to accelerated depreciation over 2 years in view of the potential for obsolescence and likely realisable value

5b Investments:

The PCC does not directly hold any investments but receives income from certain designated trust funds held by Durham Diocese as custodian

As the PCC is the ultimate beneficiary of these funds they have been included in these accounts

see note 10 for an analysis of these custodian funds and their realised and unrealised changes in valuation.

6 Analysis of net assets by fund

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
Fixed Assets	96,494	85,683	-	182,177	182,770
Endowment investment funds	-	-	131,184	131,184	171,595
Current Assets	49,812	9,815	9,360	68,987	89,128
Deferred Grants and donations revenue see notes 2b and 3b				-	-
Current Liabilities	-44,623	-	-	-44,623	-47,184
	<u>101,683</u>	<u>95,498</u>	<u>140,544</u>	<u>337,726</u>	<u>396,309</u>

7 Debtors:

	2024	2023
Tax Recoverable	8,070	4,091
other debtors/receivables	31,968	9,338
	<u>40,038</u>	<u>13,429</u>

8. Liabilities - amounts falling due within one year:

	2024	2023
Accruals and deferred income	30,072	33,881
Creditors for goods and services	5,498	6,143
Other Provision:	8,000	8,000
Deferred grant and donations - restricted income: (bells project)	-	-
Other creditors: Tax and NIC	1,053	-
	<u>44,623</u>	<u>48,024</u>

9: Funds

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Note 10 Endowment	2024	2023
Unrestricted and Restricted Capital (Buildings) reserves	42,292	85,683	131,184	259,159	307,769
Unrestricted - St Matthew's Hall Management Committee	57,707			57,707	62,759
Unrestricted - General Fund:	1,684			1,684	6,869
Restricted: Organ Fund		9,815		9,815	9,552
			9,360	9,360	9,360
	<u>101,683</u>	<u>95,498</u>	<u>140,544</u>	<u>337,726</u>	<u>396,309</u>

Locally managed endowment funds consist of a number of specific legacies, the income from which may be used for the general purposes of the PCC: Other Endowment funds are "custodian" funds invested by the Diocese of Durham on behalf of the parish as shown in note 10

All Saints Stranton Parochial Church Council
Notes to the Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024

Note 10 Investment assets

These accounts include the consolidation of endowment funds held in trust on the PCC's behalf as custodian by the Diocese of Durham. These funds are ultimately under the control of the PCC for Church purposes, subject to endowment and o restrictions in each Trust deed. In 2024, the PCC obtained the necessary legal permissions to liquidate the capital and accrued interest of the "Tithe Act", "Brunswick Street" and "Church" endowments to make the funds available for essential stonework repairs on the Chu Tower and to draw the Accrued interest of the "Windrim" Trust, which was endowed for maintenance and improvement of Church Fabri

The Tower stoneork repairs were completed in December 2024: these accounts include all the relevant funding and costs associated

The funds are invested in low risk investment funds and interest bearing deposits in accordance with Diocesan investment policies

	2024 financial year				2023 financial year			
	Valuation 1/1/24	income	investment gain/(loss)	Realisation to fund project	Valuation 31/12/24	income	investment gain/(loss)	Valuation 31/12/23
Tithe Act	6,284		191	-6,475			545	6,284
Brunswick St	7,291			-7,291				7,291
Interest	908	215		-1,123		360		908
Windrim Note 10.1)	126,070		2,885		128,955		10,928	126,070
Interest	37,453	4,952		-40,176	2,229	5,033		37,453
Church	1,334		47	-1,381			53	1,334
Interest	453	39		-493		56		453
Investment reserve	<u>179,794</u>				<u>131,184</u>			<u>179,794</u>
Utilised to fund fabric repairs				<u>-56,939</u>				
Interest realised		<u>5,206</u>				<u>5,449</u>		
Investment Net Gains/(Losses)			<u>3,123</u>				<u>11,526</u>	
of which: Realised			<u>238</u>					
Unrealised			<u>2,885</u>					

10.1 The Windrim Trust (income only) is to be used for the maintenance and improvement of the Fabric of the Church

Note 11 Related party transactions

The charity did not enter into any financial transactions, remuneration arrangements or contracts involving trustees or related parties in the financial year to 31 December 2024 or in the financial year to 31 December 2023

All Saints Stranton Parochial Church Council
Restricted funds 2024

	Central Hartlepool Mission Project (Communiti es of Hope)	Organ Fund and Tower Appeal	Total 2024	2023 Communities of Hope	2023 Bells Appeal	Total 2023
Grants & Donations						
Benefact Trust		8000.00	8000.00			
C Cookson Trust		1000.00	1000.00			
Diocese of Durham		5000.00	5000.00			
Northumbria Historic Churches Trust		10000.00	10000.00			
Fundraising concert organ - D Cook		263.00	263.00			
Fundraising concert Tower -Hartlepool Ladies Choir		435.20	435.20			
Donations (individual)		15280.00	15280.00			
Gift aid on Donations		3820.00	3820.00			
Contribution from contractor					85.00	85.00
LPOW VAT Grant		24487.83	24487.83		7462.50	7462.50
SDF funds via Diocese of Durham	36944.73		36944.73	59528.00		59528.00
Other sources of Income - HAF	7292.36		7292.36	8488.00		8488.00
DBF missional Grant	1000.00		1000.00	500.00		500.00
Grants <£1000	500.00		500.00	1195.00		1195.00
Donations	171.50		171.50			
Internal allocation form Olive fund	1472.50		1472.50			
total restricted income 2024	47381.09	68286.03	115667.12	69711.00	7547.50	77258.50
Project expenditure						
Professional Fees		4104.71	4104.71			
Restricted fund Contribution made to Contractor incl VAT		63918.03	63918.03			
Hartlepool Group of parishes; premises expenditure	6160.00		6160.00	9579.00		9579.00
other Operating costs	5655.91		5655.91	10514.00		10514.00
Bell contractors - contribution to Repairs and refurbishments					7547.50	7547.50
Salaries costs	35565.18		35565.18	46962.00		46962.00
Accrued costs and contractual liabilities				2656.00		2656.00
Total Restricted Expenditure	47381.09	68022.74	115403.83	69711.00	7547.50	77258.50
Surplus carried forward - addition to Organ fund		263.00	263.00			
Total Restricted Expenditure and surplus	47381.09	68285.74	115666.83	69711.00	7547.50	77258.50

Independent Examiner's Certificate for Stranton PCC Accounts: Charity Number: 1134753

I report to the trustees of: All Saints Stranton Parochial Church Council on accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act), and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

Independent examiner's statement:

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

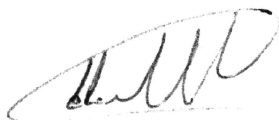
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the following requirements have not been met:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act;
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with
- the accounting requirements of the Charities Act;
- to account for statutory fees correctly.

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

Signed:



Clive Rathbone

Date: May 10 2025

21 Wolviston Road, Hartlepool

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