

**ST ANDREW'S CHURCH
HAUGHTON-LE-SKERNE**

**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
(APCM)**



**To be held on
Tuesday 29 April 2025
7.00pm
St Andrew's Church Hall**

**ANNUAL REPORTS
FROM 2024
FOR 2025 APCM**

St Andrew's Church, Haughton-le-Skerne - Information

Church Office
Haughton Green, Darlington, DL1 2DD
01325 468142
office@standrewshaughton.org.uk

Church Website
www.standrewshaughton.org.uk

Rector:	The Reverend Mark East
Associate Minister:	The Reverend Sue Chew
Curate:	The Reverend Amy Gooding

Registered Charity No 1134791

St Andrew's Church is part of the Deanery of Darlington and the Archdeaconry of Auckland within the Diocese of Durham.

Notes on the Reports

All the reports in this booklet cover the period January to December 2024.

Thank you to all who have contributed the reports which make up this booklet and describe the year in the life of our church. A total of 38 reports by 27 individuals or teams was submitted for this booklet and adds up to a busy year by (and for) a lot of people.

Thank you also to all of those, named or unnamed in the following reports, who have given freely of their time, effort, gifts, abilities, money and love in the service of God and his people.

Jane Teague
PCC Secretary
14 April 2025

Contents

The PCC	3
St Andrew's Parochial Church Council (PCC) by Jane Teague (PCC Secretary)	3
Leaders and Some Leadership Teams	5
Our Curate, Amy Gooding, by The Rev'd Mark East (Rector).....	5
The Mission Ministry and Growth Team by John Kendrick (MMGT Member).....	5
The Missional Community by The Rev'd Mark East (Rector)	6
The Staff Team by The Rev'd Mark East (Rector)	6
Employees by The Rev'd Mark East (Rector)	7
The Pastoral Team by Muriel Jones (Team Member)	7
Some Key Areas of Church Life	8
Church Services	8
Service Planning and Delivery (including the Word Group) Report by The Rev'd Mark East (Rector).....	8
Music and Worship Group by John Kendrick (Music and Worship Group Coordinator) ..	8
Prayer Ministry Team by Revd Amy Gooding (Prayer Ministry Team Coordinator)	8
Mission and Outreach.....	9
Missional Community - Children's Christmas Party by Lynda Gough (Party Co-ordinator)	9
Missional Community – Teatime Church by Lynda Gough (Teatime Church Co-ordinator)	10
Missional Community - Cooking 4 Life by Liz Day (Cooking 4 Life Leader)	11
Alpha by Gill Jones (Alpha Team Member)	11
Discipleship and Training.....	12
Pastoral Care	12
Care Home Ministry by Rael Wright	12
The Bereavement Journey Course by Revd Amy Gooding (Course Host and Leader). 12	
Other Church Groups and Activities	13
Coffee, Cake and Contemplation by Helen Winthorpe Kendrick (Co-leader with Pauline Young)	13
St Andrew's Coffee Mornings by Denise Hope (Organiser)	13
St Andrew's Christmas Fayre by Denise Hope (Organiser)	14
Christmas Afternoon Tea by Sheila Harris (Organiser).....	14
St Andrew's Craft Group by Pauline Young.....	14
Games of Delight by Helen Mulholland (Games of Delight Leader).....	14
Church Infrastructure	15
Church Building, Fabric and Grounds by The Churchwardens/ Building Maintenance Group	15
Technology at St Andrew's by Stoker Wilson.....	16
Church Finances.....	17

Finances by the Finance Committee	17
2024 Financial Statement	17
Church Governance	17
Electoral Roll by Alan Wright (Electoral Roll Officer)	17
Safeguarding by Gillian Jones (Parish Safeguarding Officer)	18
Helping the Local Community	19
Foodbank Report by Sue Robson (Foodbank Coordinator)	19
Darlington (CAP) Debt Centre by Cyndi Hughes (Debt Centre Manager)	20
War Memorial Garden Team by Cath Williams (Co-ordinator)	21
Afternoon Tea for National Garden Scheme Open Gardens by St Andrew's Team	22
Beyond this Church	23
Deanery Synod by Sarah McTimoney (Deanery Synod Rep for St Andrew's)	23
Durham Diocesan Synod by The Rev'd Mark East (Rector)	24
Ecumenical Groups in Darlington by The Rev'd Mark East (Rector)	25
St Andrew's at Spring Harvest by Gill Jones and Cath Williams (Organisers)	25
Uniformed Organisations	26
7th Darlington Sea Scouts by George Campbell-Wilson (Lead Volunteer (Group Manager))	26
Guiding at St Andrew's by Emma Nimmo	27
Other People, Groups and Events in 2024	28
A Brief Round-Up by Jane Teague (PCC Secretary)	28

The PCC

St Andrew's Parochial Church Council (PCC) by Jane Teague (PCC Secretary)

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. It operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2011), and is also a charity registered with the Charity Commission with PCC members as trustees.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish, including deciding how the funds of the PCC are to be spent.

Aims and Purposes

The PCC has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend Mark East, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also responsible for the maintenance of the Grade 1 listed church building, and its grounds, as well as the Church Hall complex.

Objectives

St Andrew's Church Mission Statement is:

*Glorifying God by:
Reaching HIGHER to the Father through worship and praise.
Going DEEPER in faith and relationship with Jesus and others.
Growing WIDER into the community to serve and spread His word in the power of
the Holy Spirit.
Drawing CLOSER with others into His kingdom.*

PCC Members and Appointments

The method of making appointments to the PCC is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St Andrew's, the membership of the PCC consists of:

- the incumbent (our rector)
- the associate minister
- the curate
- the churchwardens
- the PCC lay members and Deanery Synod Representatives elected by those members of the congregation who are on the Electoral Roll of the church

All those who attend our services regularly are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll, to attend the APCM and consider standing for election to the PCC.

The following served on the PCC for all of 2024, or for part of it if indicated otherwise:

Rev Mark East	Rector & PCC Chair	Ex-Officio	
Rev Sue Chew	Associate Minister	Ex-Officio	
Rev Amy Gooding	Curate	Ex-Officio	
Mike Bird	Warden	Ex-Officio	
Rob Gormley	Warden	Ex-Officio	
Sheila Harris	Warden	Ex-Officio	Until 16 April 2024
Claire Kay	Deanery Synod Rep	Ex-Officio	
Teresa Kennedy	Deanery Synod Rep	Ex-Officio	
Sarah McTimoney	Deanery Synod Rep Diocesan Synod Rep	Ex-Officio Ex-Officio	From 2 July 2024

David Cullen	PCC Member	Elected	Until 16 April 2024
Liz Day	PCC Member	Elected	
Gill Jones	PCC Member	Elected	
Karen Padurariu	PCC Member	Elected	
Andy Teague	PCC Member & Lay Vice-Chair	Elected	
Jane Teague	PCC Member & PCC Secretary	Elected	
Cath Williams	PCC Member	Elected	
Pauline Young	Licensed Lay Reader	Agreed by APCM 2024	From 16 April 2024

The APCM on 16 April 2024 agreed that any St Andrew's Licensed Readers would be invited to be PCC members for the coming year.

Following the 2024 APCM, the following were all reappointed by the PCC to continue in their roles:

- Andy Teague Lay PCC Vice-Chair
- Paul Ryan PCC Treasurer
- Jane Teague PCC Secretary
- Alan Wright Electoral Roll Officer
- Gill Jones Parish Safeguarding Officer
- Sheila Harris Health & Safety Officer

Following the 2024 APCM, the PCC also appointed the following:

- Gill Jones, Sarah McTimoney, Andy Teague, Jane Teague to the Standing Committee.
- 5 assistant churchwardens – Barbara Davis, Sheila Harris, Dominic Mulholland, Sue Stabler, Jane Teague.
- 11 sidespersons - Nick Bassington, Pam Bassington, Val Bowman, Vince Elsbury, Pippa Foddering, Denise Hope, Mike Hope, Raymond Jones, Lynne Kalandra, Sharon Phillips, Sue Robson.

Our Curate – Amy Gooding

On 29 June Amy Gooding was ordained Priest at Durham Cathedral. On the following day, Amy presided at her first Holy Communion service at St Andrew's and, after it, the church family celebrated with Amy and her family at a Bring and Share Lunch.

PCC Meetings

In 2024 the PCC met six times on the third Tuesday of the month in alternate months beginning in May. In general, the first part of each meeting is led by PCC Chair Mark East, and then the Lay Vice-Chair, Andy Teague, chairs the business part.

Given its wide responsibilities the PCC has a number of committees or teams each dealing with a particular aspect of parish life. These committees are all responsible to the PCC and report back to it regularly with information for discussion and proposals for decisions to put before the full PCC and acted on as necessary.

The PCC agenda has provided the opportunity for regular reports to be made to it, by or about the following:

- Finance Team
- Safeguarding Officer
- Health & Safety Officer
- Foodbank
- Darlington CAP Debt Centre
- Church Buildings and Grounds

- Mission, Ministry and Growth Team
- Missional Communities
- Deanery Synod
- Diocesan Synod

Further details from most of these people/groups are provided elsewhere in these reports.

The new Mission, Ministry and Growth Team was launched in November 2023 and met in alternate months in 2024 seeking to provide leadership on putting the St Andrew's Mission Statement into practice.

In addition, the PCC addressed other matters of business as they arose.

- Continuing writing, agreeing and reviewing various policies.
- In preparation for the 900th anniversary of St Andrew's Church in 2025, a team of volunteers led by Sarah McTimoney reported regularly to the PCC on their plans to celebrate this significant occasion with the local community and beyond.
- In the summer, work was finally completed to effectively boost the Wifi in the church, hall and the Gouldsmith Room.
- On several occasions during the year the PCC has discussed the Church of England's Net Zero Action Plan and the possibility of getting involved in the A Rocha Scheme, which offers support and advice to churches and Christians on caring for the environment in all aspects of both church life and their own lives.

The PCC Secretary continued to produce a written summary of each PCC meeting for the congregation, in an effort to keep them informed of what the PCC has done on behalf of the church.

Leaders and Some Leadership Teams

Our Curate, Amy Gooding, by The Rev'd Mark East (Rector)

Amy Gooding has been with us now for 18 months and she was ordained Priest at Durham Cathedral on 29th June 2024, which was a great delight. She is now licensed to conduct the full range of priestly duties with us at St Andrew's.

She has completed the first full year of IME Phase 2 and continues her training which involves practical training with us in the parishes alongside regular gatherings with other curates in the Durham and Newcastle Dioceses.

Our part in this process is to continue to provide the opportunities as a parish for her development within the formation criteria. My role as her training incumbent is to have regular supervision meetings with her and to give her opportunities to grow in confidence in the different aspects of ministry, as well as to support and advise her through this process. Alongside this we also share together to help her to theologically reflect on the experiences and opportunities that she encounters in ministry. Each year we complete together a working agreement so that she is ready for the next steps in her ministerial development.

It's been a delight to see Amy blossoming as she brings many gifts and skills with her, and to see her grow in confidence and 'inhabit' the role of a priest serving with us in the parishes of Haughton and Sadberge and in the wider Deanery.

The Mission Ministry and Growth Team by John Kendrick (MMGT Member)

The Mission Ministry and Growth Team (MMGT) was formed at the end of 2023 by merging the Health for Growth and the Shared Ministry teams. The team provides strategic direction

and advice to the PCC by identifying teaching and training needs for developing the work God is calling us to within St. Andrews Church. We met six times during the year. Our main focus was to develop a simple statement that reflects the values of our church (a Value Statement). To achieve this, we used a questionnaire which asked the congregation what they felt was good about our church and what they felt needed improving. Discussion about the results of this questionnaire resulted in a proposed value statement which was then passed to the PCC for discussion. In the process of developing the value statement we began discussing areas that the church family feels need addressing, these include; "Speaking up against injustice with courage" and "Caring for God's creation".

Members of the MGMT are Mark East, Amy Gooding, Barbara Davis, Liz Day, Cilla Hollamby, Paul Hollamby, Helen Kendrick, John Kendrick, Gill Jones and Cath Williams.

The Missional Community by The Rev'd Mark East (Rector)

Our 'pilot' Missional Community (MC) has been up and running now since September 2023. In February 2024 we held our first Tea-Time Church (TTC) gathering in the Parish Hall (see the more detailed report from Lynda Gough about this), and Cooking4Life (C4L) set up earlier in 2023 (see Liz Day's detailed report).

The pattern of meeting for the MC has continued as follows: -

Week 1 – Tea-Time Church (1st Sunday of each month – 4 to 5.30 pm)

Week 2 – Bible Study and Prayer

Week 3 – Planning for the next Tea-Time Church Service

Week 4 – Social Event

It has been encouraging to see the life and vision of the MC continue to hold strong following the UP-IN-OUT model that undergirds it. The UP and the IN aspects are very much at the heart of the Bible Study and Prayer and the Social Events, and the OUT is directed through the planning and execution of the missional activities i.e. TTC & C4L. Intentional discipleship is a key aspect of the MC.

Another key part of the MC is that those attending, and other friends and contacts, are invited to the various social events we hold as well as other church activities. This enables relationships to grow and to meet other church family members.

Both branches of the MC provide regular updates to the PCC, and on 28th April 2024 the whole church was given the opportunity to hear how things were progressing in a church service dedicated to reflect and update about the MC. Also in July 2024 the Diocesan Growth Team organised for a short video to be produced for sharing across the Diocese about the Missional Community and its progress. This 'pilot' MC will be reviewed by the PCC in 2025.

Thank you for your ongoing support and prayers for this ministry.

The Staff Team by The Rev'd Mark East (Rector)

The Staff Team at St Andrew's is made up of the following members:

The Rev'd Mark East (Rector), The Rev'd Amy Gooding (Curate), The Rev'd Sue Chew (Associate Minister), Muriel Jones, Pauline Young (LLM Reader), & The Rev'd Stoker Wilson (PTO)

The team endeavours to meet twice monthly on the first and third Tuesday mornings for Morning Prayer followed by a meeting. The parish administrator doesn't attend these meetings but is regularly involved in checking details and following up on actions. We previously also met on the 2nd Wednesday of each month for a lunch together in the Parish Hall followed by a meeting, but during the autumn we changed this to the 4th

Wednesday due to Amy's IME commitments. The parish administrator joins us for the lunch and meeting. It seeks to be a conduit to ensure there is good communication on a variety of matters.

The main function of the group is to see to practical details that need to be actioned following decisions taken by various other groups including the PCC and the Word Group etc. It doesn't deal with any governance issues but does often action decisions taken on governance matters particularly relating to our church worship life.

In essence the Staff Team makes sure that many practicalities are effectively actioned such as organising flowers for Mothering Sunday services, deciding on plans for major festivals, discussing dynamics and practicalities for different aspects of church worship and is an arena for initial discussions about sensitive issues to do with church life and worship etc. Much of what it does goes unnoticed by many church members, but is vital for the general smooth running of church life.

Employees by The Rev'd Mark East (Rector)

Parish Administrator – Pam Bassington

Our very welcoming and competent Parish Administrator is, for many, the 'face of St Andrew's' – the person who deals with all sorts of questions, resolves many different problems ranging from drains being blocked, children to be baptised, bookings for the Parish Hall, regular decorating, cooking amazing meals for us to enjoy, complaints from disgruntled parishioners, to making arrangements for interment of cremated remains. And there's so much more that she wonderfully carries out with great grace, and (usually) with a smile on her face. She also is a source of creativity for many different tasks, displays and occasions.

We are so grateful for all she does and really appreciate what a wonderful asset we have in her – every church needs 'a Pam'!

Cleaner – Tracey Bean

Tracey started working for St Andrew's cleaning the church and the parish hall at the end of May 2024. She is contracted to work for 8 hours per week which she spreads out over a couple of mornings. She is usually working in the early hours of the day to avoid clashing with any activities or services.

We are very grateful for the diligence with which she works and for the way in which all the facilities are kept clean and ready to welcome those who use our buildings.

CAP Debt Centre Manager – Cyndi Hughes

The CAP Debt Centre has been in operation since July 2020, and has continued to develop under the committed leadership of our Debt Centre Manager Cyndi Hughes. Cyndi works 20 hours per week part time for the Centre and fulfils a significant role in helping clients in the DL1 – DL5 postcode areas who are referred from CAP Support Hub in Bradford. For more details about the work carried out through the Debt Centre please see Cyndi's later report.

The Pastoral Team by Muriel Jones (Team Member)

Three clergy and four lay people make up this group – a group that many will not realise meets regularly to consider the more vulnerable members of St. Andrew's church. Many of these members are no longer able to attend regular services but appreciate the contacts and visits made by members of the team and others.

We have a list of between 25 and 30 people which we review at every meeting. If any concerns crop up in between meetings we can keep in touch via our WhatsApp group as well as the Prayer Chain (now on WhatsApp too).

All members of the Pastoral group have the necessary Safeguarding qualifications. Home Communion is offered to anyone who would like to receive it. We are also in touch with the Care Home Ministry team taking Holy Communion into some of the Care Homes as well as the monthly 'Songs of Praise' service.

Some Key Areas of Church Life

Church Services

Service Planning and Delivery (including the Word Group) Report by The Rev'd Mark East (Rector)

The Staff Team at St Andrew's and the Word Group who assist the Rector are responsible for the service planning and delivery.

Those on the Word Group are anyone who preaches or leads services regularly and will either have a Bishop's licence (i.e. clergy and LLM Readers) or have permission to preach and/or lead, having completed some Diocesan accredited preparation or course.

We meet about every six to eight weeks to plan for major festivals, to prepare for and pray about specific themes and teaching needs of the church, although for various reasons we've not had many meetings during 2024.

During the past year we have focussed on several key themes, as well as using seasonal lectionary themes and plans.

- In January we followed a series of teaching on prayer.
- In Lent we followed teaching themes about 'Caring for God's Creation', culminating in one of the Diocesan Advisors on becoming net zero – Bethan Still – speaking to the church about ways in which we can work towards becoming net zero.
- In June we followed a series helping us as a church to identify the values we hold that undergird what we do and how we act as a church.
- During September and leading up to our Harvest Festival we used some teaching on Generosity to encourage us in our giving as a church.
- In the other months between these times, we followed the common lectionary themes/readings.

We try to embed our teaching and services into practical Christian discipleship and service.

Music and Worship Group by John Kendrick (Music and Worship Group Coordinator)

The music and worship group leads our Sunday worship with a small group of dedicated singers and musicians. There are about eight people with a variety of musical skills in the group, and we are grateful for their contributions. Unfortunately, other commitments often mean the music group on a Sunday is quite small in number. We would welcome any other musicians or singers who would like to join us.

A high point in the year was the service of carols and readings that took place at Christmas time. The extended group of singers who led the worship were supported by a group of musicians including keyboard, guitar, clarinet, flute cello, bass guitar, French horn, cornet, and trumpet.

Prayer Ministry Team by Revd Amy Gooding (Prayer Ministry Team Coordinator)

Our faithful Prayer Ministry Team continues to offer Prayer Ministry at each regular Eucharistic service at St Andrew's, on a rota basis. We have nine dedicated members of the team, all with appropriate levels of Safeguarding and DBS check, working in teams of two each Eucharistic Sunday, with the service leader highlighting that this ministry is available.

The team consists of Claire Kay, Mike Bird, Barbara Davis, Lynn Wilson, Karen Padurariu, myself, Lynda Gough, Cilla Hollamby and Liz Day. The rota management is done by myself and then given to Jane Teague for the Master Rota.

At our Review Meeting at the end of April 2024, it was decided to continue with offering Prayer Ministry both at the font during Holy Communion distribution, and after the service in the Choir stalls. We would like to thank Clergy and Wardens for adjusting their habits so that people being prayed for after the service in the Choir stalls are not disturbed by people needing access to the Vestry or Ambry. We also revisited Safeguarding principles, as is best practice, and decided to re-institute the Prayer Box at the back of church, the team on duty checking and praying for any prayers requested. It was also decided that we will meet annually for a review of how things are going.

In terms of take up for Prayer Ministry, we have found this to be sporadic. On occasion there has been a queue, and other times, the team has used the time to pray for the congregation as a whole and the work of the church, or for people we know who have asked for prayer. We would like to encourage people to use this ministry more regularly.

As Curate, I would like to reiterate that I am indebted to this faithful team of intercessory pray-ers who have followed a call to serve in this ministry, and who are flexible with one another in covering rota slots as necessary and pray for each other when not on the rota. They are all determined to cover the work and the people of St Andrew's with careful prayer, and be available, giving of themselves, listening to God, and holding those who ask for it up to God in prayer. They are a continued blessing to all of us in showing God's love and compassion in this way.

Another way people can ask for prayer in a confidential manner is via the Prayer Chain. Originally a telephone-based chain, this is now a secure WhatsApp Group of intercessors made up of Alice Sewell, Mark East, Cath Williams, Amy Gooding, Claire Kay, Georgine Whitfield, Denise Hope, Muriel Jones, Sue Robson and Stoker Wilson. If using this prayer service, please ensure any person you are asking for prayer for is aware. It is a good way of asking for a number of people to pray for something important or urgent. Thank you to those who serve in this way.

Mission and Outreach

Missional Community - Children's Christmas Party by Lynda Gough (Party Co-ordinator)

Following the success of the Christmas Party last year, we held another party on 15th December 2024. We advertised the party within the community for children from Reception age to Year 6. We also invited pre-school children who are members of our church family and regularly come to a service in St Andrew's Church, accompanied by a parent or adult carer known to us and agreed by the PCC as a volunteer Helper.

The Christmas Party was an opportunity to share the love of Jesus through the Christmas story with the 28 children who came along. As they arrived, they had a choice of crafts which they could move around freely, and which they could take home:

Scratch Nativity Pictures

Sticker Nativity Cards

Assembling and decorating cone Angels and Father Christmas cone table decorations

Making Christmas Tree hanging decorations

Painting Nativity Suncatchers

Making Hama Bead Christmas Decorations

Making Christmas Crackers

We had a Chocolate Christmas Story Quiz which proved to be very competitive and other team games. We watched a children's DVD of the Christmas story 'On Angel Wings' based

on the book by Michael Morpurgo. Janet Bowles and her team provided an amazing 2-course cooked lunch with choice of a variety of dishes. The children each received a Christmas story book produced by the Bible Society as a take home gift.

Thank you to everyone who helped with the party and to everyone who prayed. It could not have been such a success without the volunteers from the congregation of St Andrews who helped on the day with the children, the catering and IT. We had 14 Leaders and 9 Helpers, together with Parent Helpers of pre-school church children.

Thank you to Pam in the office for administrative help, and to Claire Kay and others who spread the word and helped advertise the party.

Thanks also to the PCC for agreeing to release money from the Youth & Children's Fund for the party, to those who offered individual donations and to those who donated food. Through the generosity of the people of St Andrews we were able to run the party free for the children, which was really appreciated by families at Christmastime.

Missional Community – Teatime Church by Lynda Gough (Teatime Church Co-ordinator)

TeaTime Church is a new service our church is offering for all ages. It began in February 2024 with 19 volunteers. The vision for TeaTime Church is to reach out to children and families in our community, to share with them the love of God, and to follow Jesus and grow in faith together as his disciples. Our volunteers also have another opportunity, alongside many other church activities, to discover and respond to ways in which God might be calling them to serve him. We intentionally encourage and nurture people to develop their God-given gifts within a supportive community.

We meet monthly in the Church Hall on the first Sunday of every month from 4pm to around 5.30pm. Everyone of any age is welcome to come along. It has been a blessing to experience the warmth of the embracing, welcoming and caring congregation that has been growing month by month.

The service begins informally as people arrive. Refreshments are served and craft tables set out for the children (often the adults get creative and join in around the tables too!). They are able to make a craft which is linked to the theme of the service and which they can take home afterwards. We then come together for a time of interactive worship which includes worship songs, the Bible story usually told through a DVD, and prayers. After this we break out into an adult group and several children's groups to explore the theme in age-appropriate ways. We end with a 2-course meal together.

During the first 6 months from February to July 2024 we looked at the 9 Fruits of the Spirit – Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self Control (Galatians 5:22-23) – and what they mean for our relationship with God and with one another. We linked the fruits with Bible stories such as The Prodigal (Lost) son, Jesus as the True Vine, and The Good Samaritan. We also created a large collage in the Church Hall with a tree on which we displayed the Fruits of the Spirit.

From September to December 2024 our theme was God's Covenant of faithful love for the world he has created and for all people. We changed the collage tree to a Jesse Tree on which we hung symbols of God's unfolding Covenant – with Creation and Noah, with Abraham, with Moses at Mount Sinai, and finally in December through God's Covenant with David and the New Covenant fulfilled in Jesus as we celebrated his birth. Symbols which the children made were also displayed on the Jesse Tree in church for our Carol Service and over the Christmas season.

Numbers attending TeaTime Church in 2024 were between 44 and 60 each month, including volunteers, adults and children. Numbers were a little lower when TeaTime Church fell on a

bank holiday. Thank you to all the dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers who make TeaTime Church possible and such a joy, and to everyone who prays for it!

Missional Community - Cooking 4 Life by Liz Day (Cooking 4 Life Leader)

From January to December 2024, as an outreach arm from St Andrew's Missional Community, Cooking 4 Life (C4L) provided further opportunities for guests who may be seeking to consider who God is and His 'recipe' or design for life. The team continued to respond to the call in Matthew 25:34-40 to 'welcome the stranger' and 'feed the hungry' and guests were invited to 'together beat the bite of the cost of living'. In its second year, C4L runs every Wednesday morning, 9.30am – 12.15pm, during term time. Numbers of guests attending gradually grew from three to four each week, to six or more by September and up to December. A hallmark of growing relationships was sharing testimony to help make real what following Jesus is like. Prayer was also sometimes offered and sometimes asked for. Continuing the theme of missional hospitality, a celebratory midday meal for 30 provided by guests and team members in July, was a good opportunity to invite past C4L guests as well as friends from TTC and the Missional Community, to network. Some C4L guests also attended TTC, Coffee Mornings and occasionally, Alpha.

From January to June, in response to Matthew 5:6 (paraphrase) 'Blessed are you if you have a healthy hunger for God', Liz initiated a project that others 'took up' looking at finding God in the Psalms. This involved returning to parts of favourite psalms that particularly resonated such as Psalms 139 or 23. 10–15 minutes towards the end of sharing light food 11.30am-12.00pm involved discussing sections of psalms or poetry about psalms, lament, praise, honest questions. Guests' and helpers' own lively discussions, interests, comments and reflections over the weeks were shaped into a unique C4L Psalm! Easter 2024, all guests received their own copy of a New Testament and Psalms to take home.

Very naturally, and after prayer for a new helper leader, we were delighted in September, to welcome Patience Matanhike to join the five other wonderful helper leaders comprising the team: Barbara Davis, Carol Devlin, Sue Stabler, Cath Williams, Cathryn Warden. The team is strong and reliable and proactively encourage and pray for one another as well as for C4L guests. Two, sometimes three from the team join Liz every week to enable safe, practical cookery. Also, since September 2024, with growing numbers, a mindfulness activity was started, 'Exploring Proverbs' based around an Eden Project colouring book. It was beautifully led by Cath Williams or Sue Stabler or Patience Matanhike or Carol Devlin. It runs in the hall concurrently with cookery in the kitchen and provides flexibility for guests to do one or both (or none). Helpers also move from one activity to the other as is needed. It works very well, facilitating good and growing relationships and understanding.

Alpha by Gill Jones (Alpha Team Member)

On Wednesday evenings in the summer and autumn of 2024, we ran Alpha Courses in the Gouldsmith Room. We continued to be blessed to see lives changed and people encouraged in their faith by attending Alpha. At each Alpha session, there is always the opportunity for discussion, learning and sharing (and to eat cake) in a safe setting.

This year we were pleased to have Jeremy Horner join the Alpha team, his valuable insight and contributions have been appreciated by the team and guests alike.

As a follow-on from Alpha, Mike Bird and Lynn Wilson encouraged our guests to join the Pilgrim course beginning in January 2025.

Gillian Jones on behalf of the Alpha team (Mike Bird, Barbara Davies, Mark East, Rob Gormley, Jeremy Horner, Sue Stabler, Cath Williams, Lynn Wilson and Stoker Wilson).

Discipleship and Training

Lent Groups, John and Helen Winthorpe Kendrick (Lent Group Leaders)

The theme for our 2024 Lent course was a series called “Plenty! – Joy in Enough”. Groups met during the week to watch the video and chat informally about what it means to be a Christian in today’s world and how we can live in a more sustainable way. These Lent groups gave us the opportunity to share our thoughts about being a Christian and allowed us to get to know one another better in a friendly and supportive group.

Pastoral Care

Care Home Ministry by Rael Wright

We are a group of fourteen volunteers divided into four groups who, each month, visit the Care Homes in Haughton - Riverside, The Grange, Oak Lodge and Springfield.

We offer a short praise service of about 25 minutes which consists of hymns, a bible passage and prayers. In addition, Lynda Gough takes Holy Communion in to Oak Lodge monthly, and Amy Gooding and/or Mark East take Holy Communion in to Springfield Care Home once a month, separately to the praise service, alongside clergy from St Matthew & St Luke's.

The Care Homes always give us a very warm welcome and appreciate the time and effort that we put into these visits.

I would like to say a very big thank you to the team for their faithfulness and dedication to this ministry.

The Bereavement Journey Course by Revd Amy Gooding (Course Host and Leader)

The Bereavement Journey is a nationally recognised, established, seven-week course, developed for use by churches, designed by Holy Trinity, Brompton. It is a series of structured sessions based around videos which look at the journey of grief, allowing people to work at their own pace to understand more about, and begin to process elements of, bereavement and loss. The videos are written by clergy and people qualified in grief counselling, with personal experiences of loss. The first six sessions are general; the seventh (optional) session looks at faith questions. Each session is facilitated locally by a host, group leaders and helpers and includes two videos, a welcome, group times and a coffee break. There is a helpful course manual that is worked through and has space for notes for the participants.

This year we have run two Bereavement Journey Courses, one during June-July and one September- November (with a break for half term). We run on Monday afternoons 2-4pm, in the Gouldsmith Room. The team again consisted of Revd Amy Gooding (Host and Group Leader), Cath Williams (Group Leader) and helpers Stuart Baker and Gill Jones. The team is supported by an external qualified Counsellor-Advisor, which in our case was again Ben Bourne, the Bereavement Co-ordinator at St Teresa’s Hospice, to whom we could go for advice if necessary. The team revised their training for each course, with regard to the specific role profiles and session outlines and felt we had embedded our learning from the previous pilot course. We had good take up for both courses, with seven guests of varying ages, circumstances and length of time bereaved, for the June-July Course, and seven for September-November (the maximum we can take being eight). The guests were either invited by a leader, saw an advert in church, registered through word-of-mouth or were socially prescribed by Social Workers or GPs (who recognise this nationally valued course as helpful for all bereaved people).

Feedback from the group was excellent, and indicated that all guests found the course helpful and appreciated the opportunity to be in a safe space with people who understood a

little of what they were feeling and going through, whilst understanding that each person's grief is different. Attendance was very good, and all our guests bar one opted to come to the faith session at the end of the course. It was a privilege to walk alongside our guests, and support and pray for them, for this seven-week period of their journey. At the instigation of team members, we have begun a drop-in session with the aim of catching up and supporting one another, available to anyone who has been on a St Andrew's Course, on a Monday afternoon once a month, in the Gouldsmith Room, when the course is not running. This is well supported, as are supportive activities organised by attendees for each other. All of our guests also receive an invitation to St Andrew's Memorial Service in October, to which around half came. From the team's perspective each group has gelled well, respected each person's situation and feelings, and became a source of support for one another. The team itself worked extremely well together as a supportive group.

We intend to offer the Bereavement Journey course again twice this year, following the same pattern. In September Revd Amy Gooding met with leaders of All Saints Blackwell Bereavement Journey to share best practice and discuss how we could dovetail our courses, so that there is one running in our Deanery each term. We know that clergy at Holy Trinity and All Saints Hurworth are also training to run courses in the future.

The team is grateful for the support of the PCC and the prayers of the church for the course. I personally am indebted to the team for their contributions, prayer and care for the guests, and their support of me as the host. We continue to pray for the guests who have attended all our courses.

Other Church Groups and Activities

Coffee, Cake and Contemplation by Helen Winthorpe Kendrick (Co-leader with Pauline Young)

Meetings take place on the 3rd Tuesday of the month in the Church Hall from 1.00pm – 3.00pm and everyone is welcome to come along. We start with a chat, in small groups, over a cuppa and some delicious cake which is made for us by members of the group. We began the year by looking at the importance of spending our time in different ways - time to celebrate, rest, play and liberate. This was followed by using items in the dining room and the study to see how we could be closer to God. September saw the start of a new theme based on women from the Old and New Testaments and how the character that they showed could be relevant to us today.

St Andrew's Coffee Mornings by Denise Hope (Organiser)

St Andrew's Church holds a Coffee Morning in the Church Hall on the third Saturday of each month. These mornings provide a very welcome opportunity for local people to come together to chat and catch up in a warm friendly environment. They are well attended, some, but not all, being from St Andrew's or Haughton Methodists. As well as serving refreshments including lovely homemade cakes, there are usually some stalls selling bric-a-brac, cakes and handmade cards.

Most months, the money raised goes into general church funds, but the proceeds from some coffee mornings each year are given to a charity. In 2024 £510.14 was donated to Cancer Research, £253.70 was shared between the Royal British Legion and the St Andrew's Memorial Garden, and we gave a donation of £100 to the Hand & Voice Choir who performed for us at the Christmas Coffee Morning. Coffee mornings raise welcome funds, as well as raising the spirits of those who attend.

There is a very good team of volunteers who help make these events happen, and regularly include Pam Bassington, Pippa Foddering, Audrey Grey, Claire Kay, Joan Martin, Judith and Ken Monkman, Alice Sewell and Mike Hope.

St Andrew's Christmas Fayre by Denise Hope (Organiser)

St Andrew's Christmas Fayre took place on 23 November 2024. It was well supported by the local community as well as church folk. It is a great event to meet up with people, as well as to find a bargain or two.

A great deal of preparation and organisation went into the event - collecting items for stalls, advertising it, recruiting a team of helpers (all decked out in Christmas jumpers) and setting up the Hall. It was a busy but very enjoyable day and worth all the hard work. A fantastic amount of about £1651 was raised for general church funds.

The small army of helpers included Pam Bassington, Val Bowman, Moyra Cooper, Vince Elsbury, Pippa Foddering, Audrey Grey, Mike Hope, Claire Kay, Joan Martin, Judith, Ken and Robynne Monkman, Karen Padurariu, Sharon Philips, Sue and Ken Robson, Alice and Beth Sewell, Sue Stabler, Jean Taylor, Peter Whitehouse and Rael and Alan Wright (with apologies to anyone missed out). A great big thank you to everyone who helped with this annual event.

Christmas Afternoon Tea by Sheila Harris (Organiser)

Our Annual Afternoon Tea was held on Saturday 7th December at 2 pm. 30 guests attended and took their seats in the main hall for a chat and catch-up with friends old and new. They were served with a glass of non-alcoholic mulled wine and began the serious task of competing in the quizzes which had been laid out on the tables. The teams were very well informed and token prizes of Christmas chocolates were handed out to the winners.

Entertainment followed in the form of the amusing story of 'The Methodist Bra' read by Bette Dobson, which brought much fun and laughter to the proceedings. This was followed by a festive sing song led by Peter on the piano. Mark said grace and having worked up a thirst and appetite, everyone proceeded into the Gouldsmith Room. Crackers were pulled, jokes shared, hats donned and the real business of the day started. Guests were served tea and enjoyed sandwiches, cakes, mince pies and scones. They departed at 4 pm, having collected cards and goody bags (including lavender bags provided by Pippa Foddering).

I would like to thank all those willing volunteers who made the event possible - Pam Bassington who did a huge amount of work in preparation and on the day, as well as baking the delicious scones, Jane Teague who helped to set up tables, wash crockery and decorate the hall and was also there for the entire day, Peter Linney and Bette Dobson who provided entertainment, Jean Taylor, Sue Chew, Lynne Kalandra, Lynda Gough, Margaret Britton and Barbara Davis who did various essential jobs at and before the event. Also, Nick Bassington, David Harris and Muriel Jones who provided lifts. We couldn't have done it without you!

St Andrew's Craft Group by Pauline Young

St. Andrews Craft Group meet each Monday from 1.00 until 3.00 in the Church Hall. Our interests cover beading, embroidery, knitting, patchwork, card making, felting and more. We're a friendly group, happy to share our craft knowledge.

Each session we pay £2.00 to cover refreshments and hire of the hall. If you would like to learn more, contact Pauline Young on 0789 6706 449 or Alice Sewell on 07375 086660.

Games of Delight by Helen Mulholland (Games of Delight Leader)

Games of Delight, which started in September 2024, is a monthly meet-up for people aged 18 to 35 where we play board games, eat food and socialise. We have Christian background music playing and take available opportunities to share our faith/talk about other church activities.

Our start-up fund was provided by a Cajun Evening in 2023 and there is a donation pot each month for contributions towards food and new games. We are now in a position to buy some new games thanks to attendees' generosity.

Numbers have been between 7 and 10 and Erica Mulholland is now preparing to advertise more regularly on Instagram and Facebook to increase numbers.

I would like to thank Dominic, Tom and Erica Mulholland for their work and commitment to making this new group a success.

Church Infrastructure

Church Building, Fabric and Grounds by The Churchwardens/ Building Maintenance Group

Church Fabric

The group is comprised of the Wardens and Lay Vice Chair and it meets every other month. The members are Rob Gormley, Mike Bird and Sheila Harris (until May 24) and Andy Teague. There has been close liaison with Pam Bassington and Mark East.

The group has handled organising funding, and approval and oversight of various work on the church building during the year. It also oversees monitoring of ongoing issues and a regular routine maintenance programme aimed at preventing building defects from developing.

The group approached Stones Technical to be our management contractor. They operate nationally but are based in Darlington and have worked on Durham Cathedral and St Paul's Cathedral as well as several other prestigious London landmarks. As such, they have expertise themselves and they also have connections with Specialist subcontractors, making the work they do very reliable.

Peter Snowden, a local Licensed Lay Minister (Reader), is also a handyman and he has carried out minor works at very reasonable prices.

A generous legacy was received from Lesley Stegner's estate. Sheila Harris worked hard to obtain grants of £3750 from Benefact Trust, £5000 from Durham Diocese and £10,000 from Northumbrian Historic Churches. This together with £10,000 generously given over several years meant £ 36750 was available for building work.

The 2021 Quinquennial Survey Report identified 82 items of building repair work, assigning them various priorities and 27 of these were completed at a cost of £39,184 through Stones Technical.

Generous gifts at St Andrews tide raised about £2000.

Archdeacon Rick Simpson approved lime plaster repairs near the high altar and a package of external masonry repairs and these were completed in July 2024. He also approved work to install LED lighting and address various electrical faults. This began in Sept 2024 and was largely complete by the year end, with some snags still remaining.

A replacement flag pole was erected and urgent repair of masonry carried out on the tower parapets.

A Faculty was obtained and Borderdale Glass were engaged to replace window guards on the south wall of the chancel. Procedural issues delayed this work beyond the year end.

Churchyard

Darlington Borough Council (DBC) maintains the wider areas of the church yard because it is closed for further burials. DBC felled a large diseased chestnut tree next to the Salters Lane gate and they were asked to repair damage to a coping stone in the Stockton Road boundary wall. Japanese knotweed was identified and is being managed.

The PCC maintains the areas for burial of cremated remains. These areas have been maintained in line with the regulations. The families have generally complied with the regulations without much dispute and the Wardens have regularly removed non complying items.

Technology at St Andrew's by Stoker Wilson

The church website at www.standrewshaughton.org.uk continues to provide a source of lots of useful information about the church and what's on.

The most visited pages are the permanent ones, and the top pages remain the same as they were for the 2024 report. The five most visited pages are also the same as last year (readings recorded on 18/3/2025), these pages being created in 2015. For example, the Welcome page had an average score of 44 visits per day in the last year. We list below these top five pages.

Page Title	Cumulative Visits	Since Last year
1) Welcome page	69113	15925 = 44/day
2) Contacting us	28308	3587 = 10/day
3) Sadberge Parish	25323	4359 = 12/day
4) Food Bank	23201	2748 = 8/day
4) About us	22028	2972 = 9/day

Three fairly recent pages continue to show a good number of visits.

Page Title	Cumulative Visits	Since
Tea Time Church	1940	17 th January 2024
What's on at St. Andrews	1988	3 rd January 20224
Mid-Week Services	1662	7 th December 2023

The church Facebook pages continue to give more immediate news about what's happening in a form probably more useful to younger people. A number of people have agreed to cover news of various activities and post up messages about church activities. Many thanks to the moderators and contributors of Facebook.

The church YouTube pages are the medium of choice for broadcasting services. Look up "St. Andrews Haughton le Skerne" to find us.

Services online. In the last year we have finally got a good strong connection from the church to the internet and have been able to establish the broadcasting of services live on a regular basis. Once broadcast, the services can of course be accessed any time on YouTube.

The WhatsApp social media messaging system has proved invaluable for sharing information and prayer requests. It is used by many folks in church and it would be great to have all members of the congregation linked in with this. Do let us know if you'd like to join this group. As well as the main group there are also groups for specific purposes including the Spring Harvest folks and the Prayer Chain.

Sound equipment and Tech team. There has been no change in the equipment this last year. Thanks to our tech team who make possible the use of all this equipment. It's great to have had the tech Team enlarged recently but we are always on the lookout for new members of the team. Please ask if you would like more information.

Resources provided by the church Dropbox account, Google calendar account and other IT matters are in good state and contribute well to the efficient running of the church. E-mail continues to play a vital part in the running of the church.

Church Finances

Finances by the Finance Committee

The Finance Committee is a sub-committee of the PCC whose members are Paul Ryan (Treasurer), Mike Bird, Val Bowman, Mark East, Alice Sewell and Andy Teague. The team is supported by external services especially in preparing the year-end accounts.

The group provides regular updates of the current financial situation and a year-end projection to the PCC. It makes recommendations on major costs, such as the Parish Pledge and staff salaries. It also considers income streams and makes recommendation for PCC fees for weddings and funerals, hall hire rates and ways to encourage giving.

2024 has seen an increase in giving, which, with well-managed expenses, has generated a small surplus for the year, after paying the full Parish Pledge requested by the diocese. Gas and electricity costs continue to remain high and will continue to remain high for the foreseeable future.

A major expenditure for the year was the project to undertake a number of necessary repairs to the fabric of the building along with the conversion of the lighting system to LED. There will be more detail of the work in the Buildings Management Group report.

Funding for the project was provided by what was in the building fund, grants and a generous legacy left by a long-time member of the church.

Paul Ryan, who has served diligently as Treasurer for a number of years, stepped down at the end of 2024. The Church Finance Committee takes this opportunity to thank Paul for all his service over the years. We are looking for a new Treasurer to take over the role.

2024 Financial Statement

The 2024 Financial Statement and Examiner's Report will be presented to the APCM.

Church Governance

Electoral Roll by Alan Wright (Electoral Roll Officer)

A new Electoral Roll is in place from 6th April 2025. This is operative for the period 2025-2031.

The total number on roll, at 23.03.2025, as reported to the APCM 2025, is 105.

	Male	Female
Resident in the Parish	18	50
Non-resident in the Parish	15	22
TOTAL	33	72

Safeguarding by Gillian Jones (Parish Safeguarding Officer)

Safeguarding is the action the Church takes to promote a safe culture and the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults. The safeguarding policies adopted by the PCC seek to prevent abuse, to protect those at risk and to respond well to issues and concerns raised.

The PCC has complied with the duty to have 'due regard' to the House of Bishop's Guidance in relation to safeguarding.

St Andrew's Church continues to take safeguarding seriously and it is an item on the agenda at every PCC meeting and the PCC continues to adhere to Diocesan policies and practices, including:

- St Andrew's Safeguarding Policy which takes into account the Diocesan Promoting a Safer Church Policy. Ver 2023
- Promoting a Safer Church: House of Bishop's Policy Statement (2017)
- Responding well to Domestic Abuse Practice Guidance (2017 2nd edition)
- Safer Recruitment and Selection Policy & Operating Procedure (2022)

We continue to display in church and the church hall the following documents, and on the website where required, including:

- The statement of adoption of the House of Bishops' Promoting a Safer Church; Safeguarding Policy Statement.
- The information about how to contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor, the Parish Safeguarding Officer and how to get help outside the church with child and adult safeguarding issues.
- A Promoting a Safer Church poster

. During 2024

- Running alongside our Parish Dashboard and Parish Hub (these are the resources used to keep online records of church, activities, volunteers' safeguarding requirements, safeguarding training and DBS certificates), we now have access to Safer Recruitment resources on the Hub. These are designed to make it easier for those involved in Safer Recruitment to ensure we meet the National Mandatory Safeguarding Requirements.
- I have regularly circulated the Parish Action Plan to the PCC. This highlights areas where actions are needed (for example a DBS certificate is due or a policy needs adopting).
- New National Safeguarding Standards were introduced by the Church of England. Mark, Amy and I had some introductory training regarding these at the end of 2024.
- The new Games of Delight event was set up in 2024 and a review of safeguarding needs undertaken.
- There are currently about 80 people connected with St Andrew's activities who are recorded on the Hub with DBS checks and safeguarding training.
- I attended PSO (Parish Safeguarding Officer) meetings which have been useful to discuss matters relating to my role, such as keeping up to date with new requirements.

- The November PCC meeting focussed on safeguarding following the publication of the Makin Report and the resignation of the Archbishop of Canterbury.

I continue to seek advice from the Diocese about any safeguarding issues or queries raised, particularly from Beth Miller, the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser, and Wendy Hopkins, the Diocesan Safeguarding Support Officer. I can thankfully report that there have been no incidents that have needed outside action since the last report to the APCM.

Priorities for the coming year:

- To continue to respond to any safeguarding concerns as they arise.
- To keep safeguarding prominent at PCC meetings.
- To continue to update key safeguarding policies for approval by PCC.
- To ensure that all safeguarding training and DBS certificates are up to date.
- To work with the PCC to ensure that new volunteers (where relevant) are recruited in accordance with the Safer Recruitment Practice Guidance.
- To ensure that St Andrew's complies with the new National Standards as soon as possible.
- To continue to highlight that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

I hear the struggles that other PSOs have, so I would personally like to thank everyone who has filled in forms, made applications, been safer recruited and undertaken training during 2024. Your willingness really makes my role so much easier.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns regarding safeguarding and thank you again for your support and encouragement in this important area of church life.

The PCC has complied with the duty to have 'due regard' to House of Bishop's Guidance in relation to safeguarding.

Helping the Local Community

Foodbank Report by Sue Robson (Foodbank Coordinator)

St Andrew's Foodbank takes place every Thursday in the church hall between 1-30pm and 2-30pm. We provide a bag of food for anyone going through a time of financial hardship or crisis. We provide light refreshments at each foodbank session.

In 2024 we distributed 1,911 bags of food. Bags to support families accounted for 841 of these. In 2023 we distributed 2089 bags of food so it has been encouraging to see a drop in attendance.

We distribute three sizes of food bags. There are bags for single people, bags for a household of two and bags for families. Many thanks to Pippa Foddering for her great help with weekly bag packing.

Huge thanks to the many people who support us. Morrisons and their customers provide us with a weekly trolley of food donations. The Foodbank Team went into the Morton Park store in June and collected generous donations from our appeal. Thank you to Catherine Poskitt, the wonderful Community Champion at Morton Park Morrisons. Darlington Borough Council have supported us with a donation of money through their Stronger Community Fund. They have also supported us through "The Bread-and-Butter Thing" enabling us, and other Darlington Foodbanks, to go to their Chilton Warehouse and collect designated food provision free of charge. This was for a limited period only. Darlington Rotary, Darlo

Runners, St. Andrew's congregation, Haughton Chapel, Sadberge Church, local churches, schools, Darlington College and folk in the community are just some of the people who have generously donated. The RSPCA have supported us with pet food. We are so grateful for all these donations, but we still need to shop weekly to replenish stock.

Christmas Foodbank saw 47 people attending. Each received a basic food bag, a gift, and a bag of Christmas food treats. All children of those attending received a selection box.

Carol Devlin and Christine Gregg continue to provide a great service by bringing lovely second-hand clothes for people to take away free of charge. Grateful thanks to the rest of the Foodbank Team for their great support, practical help, enthusiasm and great company. They are Moyra Cooper, Jean Taylor, Lynne Cullen, Marilyn Sykes, Gill Moore, Elaine Barnett, Marilyn Hare, Karen Horner, Terry and Vicki Conroy, Tim Francis, Pat O'Donagh, Ken Robson and Pippa Foddering.

We continue to support a high number of people. Please pray for the provision of food and money to continue so that we can continue to support our neighbours in need.

Darlington (CAP) Debt Centre by Cyndi Hughes (Debt Centre Manager)

In December 2024 we marked the second anniversary of the re-opening of the debt centre following my appointment. This year will mark the fifth anniversary of the opening of the debt centre here at St. Andrew's.

We continue to offer client visits and deliver our transformative service with the valuable support of our wonderful befrienders. Happily, Claire Kay, Paul Hollamby, Priscilla Hollamby and Peter King, all parishioners at St. Andrew's, continue giving most generously of themselves in this vital role. In addition, four other befrienders from a range of Christian denominations and churches across Darlington continue to work with us. Our efforts to get a DBS certificate for a would-be volunteer from the Pentecostal Church in Darlington is still underway. All of our active befrienders are in compliance with safeguarding (with grateful thanks to Parish Safeguarding Officer, Gillian Jones) and training requirements.

I continue to keep up with obligatory CAP training and have passed all assessments with flying colours. I also sought out training from Gambling Aware, Darlington Safeguarding Board (on hoarding and self-neglect) and specialist mental health training in order to better understand and support the people we walk beside.

During the period 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024:

32 clients were referred to the debt centre

1 client did not lead to a first appointment

9 clients did not lead to a Financial Fact Find but received some support

22 clients completed a Financial Fact Find and received budget advice

12 clients are currently going through process to become debt free

7 clients have become debt free

5 legacy clients were referred by CAP Head Office for review

Other debt centre activities during the year included meeting with referral agencies, addressing interested groups, speaking at Sunday services, attending food bank sessions, addiction support centres and community activities to speak with potential clients, meeting with funders, participating in the Deanery Poverty Group, attending CAP training sessions, the CAP conference in Bradford with Rev. Mark East and CAP regional team activities.

A dedicated group of CAP supporters, led by Rev. Mark East come together to pray monthly for the work of CAP, our clients, volunteers, funders and staff. Rev. Mark also circulates prayer points to a wider network of people who, although unable to attend in person, have expressed a willingness to pray for us. The monthly prayer gathering and wider prayer

support mean so very much to me and to our volunteers and clients. It reminds all of us of the wider circle of concern and care being offered up in Jesus' name.

The Ballinger Charitable Trust continues to support the debt centre with its generous contribution. In addition, we were able to benefit this year from the NHS 'Waiting Well Fund' which aimed to support those on NHS waiting lists by addressing some of the wider determinants of health, such as debt. Both grants were used for the centre's ongoing running costs. The Waiting Well Grant Fund was successfully signed off, however, that work now completed, continues to result in referrals from contacts in the NHS. In addition, much needed and appreciated regular donations from Darlington Baptist Church and from individuals, as well as one-off contributions for the debt centre were received.

We received excellent assistance from the team in Bradford and from our regional area manager, Julia Wilthew, this year. I have got to know colleagues from debt centres throughout the region via the monthly Team Talks on Google Meet and our annual Northern Unite Conference in Bradford and Christmas Get Together. They are prayer warriors and a great source of practical and spiritual support.

I am grateful to Rev. Mark East for his line management and pastoral care, Jane Teague for her administrative excellence and genuine willingness to find solutions, Alice Sewell for making those all-important payments and Rev. Amy Gooding for extending the hand of friendship.

The Darlington (CAP) Debt Centre is extremely grateful to the individuals, churches and funding bodies that continue to support our vital work and enable us to continue through their financial, practical and prayerful support.

¹ Clients who were not referred this year but who may be on a Debt Management Plan or other route out of debt needing an annual review of their financial circumstances.

War Memorial Garden Team by Cath Williams (Co-ordinator)

Three years ago, I was chatting with the then organiser of the planting and care group of the War Memorial Garden, as they were looking for more volunteers. The initial hardworking group came to everyone's notice particularly in 2020 when they enlarged the working area and created some magnificent designs.

In the Summer of 2022, it was agreed that some of our congregation along with their friends were willing to take on leading and organising our War Memorial area, including existing members Ken Robson, Mike Hope and Peter Sinclair. The existing threesome were our experts and guides for our planting duties and are an amazing help and part of the team.

Our very first design was created with a limited amount and availability of plants, and was definitely a huge learning curve for our new members of the team. Our very first planting was October 2022.

Our team has grown from those early days, both removal of plants and planting of the new plants have encouraged members to join us.

So how has the last 12 months gone?

In the winter months we are basically in clearing and cleaning mode, working alongside with how the weather allows, watching how the existing planting is coping and waiting for the spring time bloom.

In January 2024 Cath ordered the plants from Darlington Borough Council for the June planting. The design can be a movable feast but the order is set. New colours had been chosen for the summer design.

In May 2024 we started a more active phase, and prepared for the VE day remembrance with tidying, grass cutting and removal of weeds. At the very end of May, beginning of June, the existing plants were removed, new compost added in preparation for the June planting. The design was based on the exciting night skies we had recently experienced.

In June 2024, once again dependent on weather, a date was organised, to include planting, with Cooking 4 Life volunteers kindly organising supporting the team with coffee breaks and lunch. Planting day arrived, 2 lorry loads of plants were delivered at 9.00 am, not necessarily the planting that was ordered, so quickly Cath did a quick change to the plan, advising where the trays of plants are placed. The team broke up in to sectioning, Gill Jones, Dawn R, Judith V, and Margaret Britton working on the rectangle design, Cath Warden supporting by delivering plants of the correct colour to the team, Ken Robson, Peter Sinclair, Alan Wright, Bryan Jones, and Peter Linney all working on the other areas, firstly the squares and triangle area, the ceramic poppy areas and the borders. Huge thanks to the Cooking for Life (C4L) team for their work providing refreshments and lunch for the WM team during their session.

Immediately following the day Cath organised the plant order for October. The October 2024 design, abstract but mathematical, was completed by Gill Jones.

Through the summer members of the team helped out with grass cutting (Ken R), and watering and weeding (Margaret, Cath, Dawn, Mike H, Ken and Mike Bird). Weeding is a much bigger job than you might think. We would welcome you to join in with that when you see the need.

The autumn preparation followed the same pattern of plant removal and ground preparation at the end of September / beginning of October 2024. Plant removal includes the offer to anyone to remove anything they would like for their own garden.

Other volunteers come at this point, maybe offering an occasional hour. Helen and Ian Neil helped by removing those plants definitely not fit for transferring to home gardens. Regular helpers Cath and Simon Warden also play their part in removal and maintaining the area. Thank you to Stuart and Carol Baker for their help with maintaining and cleaning the ceramic poppy areas prior to planting, also the job of weeding the memorial area in the church yard.

The October planting day arrived and the process of plants arriving, being placed in to match the design followed the usual plan as explained above. Refreshments this time were prepared by Simon Warden and Cath Williams. Preparation of the area for the Remembrance service involves tidying, weeding and grass cutting.

A huge thanks to Ken Monkman and Denise Hope and their coffee morning team for their gift of money to help finance the upkeep of the War Memorial area. Finally, as usual, huge thanks to Vince Elsbury, Ken Robson and Mike Hope for their regular help around the area and in the churchyard. Thank you to anyone who has helped during 2024 and prior and those I have omitted to mention here.

Afternoon Tea for National Garden Scheme Open Gardens by St Andrew's Team

Several green-fingered residents of Haughton Green opened their beautiful gardens to the public on the afternoon of Saturday 6 July 2024 under the National Garden Scheme, including running a well-stocked plant stall and mounting a display of Historic Haughton-le-Skerne. The PCC agreed to provide homemade teas in the Church Hall as part of the event and also to open the church to visitors.

It was a lovely opportunity to join with the community to share in this very well-supported event. Several hundred people descended on the village to visit the gardens and partook of tea and cake with us, with much enjoyment. St Andrew's raised £1340, donating 25% of it to the NGS organisers, who raised a grand total of over £3000 for their chosen charities focussed on providing support to nursing and health charities. Thank you to Monica Spencer and her local NGS team for inviting us to join in.

Thanks go to the great group from St Andrew's - Pam Bassington, Liz Day, Denise Hope, Muriel Jones, and Jane Teague – for their work in planning and organising, and mobilising an enthusiastic army of volunteers to decorate the hall, bake, set up, welcome, serve, clear up, take money and man the car park. It was a marvellous team effort; the homemade cakes were delicious and even the downpour late in the afternoon did not dampen spirits.

Beyond this Church

Deanery Synod by Sarah McTimoney (Deanery Synod Rep for St Andrew's)

Deanery Synod is a group of elected lay members who represent their individual parishes at regular meetings of the Deanery (the group of churches across the Darlington area). St Andrew's elected representatives are Claire Kay, Teresa Kennedy and Sarah McTimoney. There are 3 meetings per year, chaired by Rev Mark East in his role as Area Dean. Sarah McTimoney also sits on Deanery Mission and Standing Committee, the group which sets the agenda for Deanery Synod, and has been elected as a Darlington representative to the House of Laity of Durham Diocesan Synod.

2024 has been an interesting year as Deanery Synod looked at the challenges of energising and engaging the congregations of the Deanery in a new Deanery Strategic Plan against a backdrop of an increasing number of churches in vacancy. Information from Diocesan Synod is that this situation is reflected across the Diocese, with a lack of applicants for vacant posts in the north east of England. The situation in Darlington places a huge strain on remaining clergy and particularly Mark as Area Dean.

Despite this rather depressing picture, Darlington Deanery is recognised in the Diocese as having energy, commitment and resources to enable growth in discipleship. This was illustrated by the Deanery Away Day, held in St Mary's Cockerton Primary School in October 2024 which was very well attended by churches across the town. An engaging range of speakers were invited to look at different aspects of living and growing in faith, in order to encourage parishes to set strategic goals for the next 5 years. This work has led to further investment of time and resources from the Diocese for 2025.

The Deanery held the annual 'Christmas Journey' experience for children, and this year nearly 1000 took part. It was held in St Matthew and St Luke's, superbly led by Rev Lissa Scott and a team of committed volunteers. Following Lissa's announcement of her intention to retire in early 2025, work began to find a new leader willing to take on this much valued ministry.

The 'Tackling Poverty' group was also active throughout the year, working with CAP, CAB and other organisations to understand issues of poverty across the town. A planned meeting with the local MP did not go ahead due to the earlier than expected General Election.

Huge thanks to the Deanery Synod reps from our PCC for their continued willingness to represent our church.

Durham Diocesan Synod by The Rev'd Mark East (Rector)

There were two Diocesan Synod meetings held on 18 May and 16 November 2024 at The Glow Centre, Newton Aycliffe.

In the middle of the year, elections were held for a new triennium (2024-27). Darlington Deanery now has the following representatives:

House of Laity: Andrew Maxwell, Sarah McTimoney, Philip Stokes & Willson Taylor.

House of Clergy: Damon Bage, Mark East, Steph Price & Anthony Smith

The main items of business for the year were as follows:

Diocesan Transformation:

Duncan Podbury, Transformation Project lead and Amy Burns, Head of Transformation Delivery presented an update on Diocesan Transformation.

Diocesan Transformation was about making progress to God's preferred future via pioneering activities and growth. Six threads of transformation had been identified: Mission Hubs; Church Planting and Revitalisation; Missional Chaplaincy; Culture Change; Missional Discipleship; Resourcing Local Change. The six threads of change were calling the diocese to do three things: Grow Younger; Grow Churches; Grow Capacity for Mission.

In January 2024 the national Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment Board (SMMIB) had granted major funding for Durham Diocese for transformational work for the period up to 2027, in broad terms split between diocesan activity areas as follows: Growing Younger £1.81m; Growing Churches £3.8m; Growing Capacity for Mission £2.4m. The funds allocated were heavily directed towards parishes in addition to providing specialist central diocesan staff to support transformational work. Durham Diocesan Board of Finance (DDBF) staffing was being re-aligned to support Diocesan Transformation work.

Safeguarding – Beth Millar, Diocesan Safeguarding Officer.

Following the safeguarding issues raised from the Makin Report both Bp Sarah and Beth Millar stressed the importance of safeguarding at every level of church life, but that the issues raised in the report were nothing to do with the excellent work that local churches do at parish level in ensuring that our churches are safe places.

New National Safeguarding Standards are being introduced and all churches, clergy and PSOs have been invited to attend information/training sessions about these.

The Diocese is going to be audited next year by INEQE, which is an outside independent company, on Safeguarding. It is very clear that Durham will come out of the audit very positively, with some areas for development for which there are already action plans in place. The culture of safeguarding in Durham is strong, Beth Miller was hugely complimentary of the PSOs, and information sharing is strong. Bp Sarah also made the point that Durham had a zero-tolerance policy to anyone on any kind of ministry with children/vulnerable people who do not have the correct checks/training. They are asked to step away from ministry till they have met the requirements.

Budget Summary

A detailed paper was produced with the 'headline' that Durham Diocese is going to be better off financially. However, this is not a good thing as it reflects the difficulty in recruiting to advertised clergy posts. The Diocese was expecting to spend an additional £700k on clergy stipends and expenses, but due to the posts not attracting applicants, this money remains with the Diocese. *"This is not a money problem; this is a people problem"*. Interesting figures on Parish Share/Guided Pledges:

- There are 206 parishes.
- Only 38 met their Guided Pledge last year.
- 43 parishes paid less than half of their Guided Pledge last year.

Diocesan Synod approved a Budget with an overall deficit of around £0.5m.

Living in Love and Faith (LLF) Update

In a video Bishop Martin Snow explained that the Prayers of Love and Faith can now be used in stand-alone services for same sex couples in a church. In order for a member of the clergy to offer this, there must be consultation with the PCC and the relevant Bishop. This will be a process of 'opting in' and a lot of effort is going in to ensuring 'pastoral oversight'. This will be discussed further at Diocesan Synod in May 2025.

Other items discussed during the year were:

- Vacancy in See (Appointment process for the next Bp of Durham).
- Durham Diocesan Board of Education Update
- Durham Lesotho Link

Ecumenical Groups in Darlington by The Rev'd Mark East (Rector)

Churches Together in Darlington (CTiD) and One Voice Darlington made plans during 2024 to become one group. The details are still being finalised about the name, so hopefully this will be sorted soon.

In 2024 there were several key events that churches and individual church members were invited to join together in. The first of these was the Good Friday Act of Witness at the Pease Monument on High Row with about 500 people present, supported by a live band from across the churches and marked a very significant opportunity for the churches to witness to all that Jesus has done for us in his death and resurrection.

In September, church leaders and agencies from across the town were invited to a special meeting of Redeeming Our Communities (ROC). This followed on from last year's initial meeting to propose the idea and has been supported by the local council, police and many other church and community groups. The Dolphin Centre was provided free of charge for this event, and as a result many good relationships are developing and best practice is being shared across the town.

Church leaders are continuing to join together for a monthly prayer gathering to pray for Darlington and God's blessing on our town. The number is increasing each month to pray together for our town, to listen to God and to seek to respond to how He leads us in bringing hope and light to our town and borough.

More locally in Haughton we have held a joint Palm Sunday Service with the Methodist Chapel and the annual Remembrance Sunday Service was also shared with the Methodist Chapel and the Salvation Army Church, being accompanied by the Salvation Army Band.

St Andrew's at Spring Harvest by Gill Jones and Cath Williams (Organisers)

On Easter Monday a group of 16 people, (9 for the first time) went to Spring Harvest at Skegness. The theme for 2024 was 'Up and Alive.' Ephesians 4:1 urges us to, 'live a life worthy of the calling [we] have received.' We discovered we can

- Look Up to get a bigger picture of who God really is...
- Wake Up to the new life he has given us in Christ...
- Dress Up with the attitudes and tools he has given us...
- Stand Up humbly for God and for others... and
- Rise Up again and again in his strength.

As well as inspired teaching and spirit filled worship, there was time to enjoy fellowship and lots of cake!

Uniformed Organisations

7th Darlington Sea Scouts by George Campbell-Wilson (Lead Volunteer (Group Manager))

2024 has been a year of change and transformation for Scouting in Haughton. 14th Darlington Air Scouts were stood down and amalgamated with the 7th Darlington Sea Scouts, this change was implemented due to falling numbers and a lack of leadership within the 14th.

There has been significant change across the board, and a large proportion of 14th leaders have either left the group or had their role ended by District. That being said, we are still in a very strong position with both adults and young people.

The adults directly involved in our group are:

George Campbell Wilson - Lead Volunteer (always somewhere to be found on a Wednesday)

Scouts Wednesday 7.50 – 9.10pm Wednesday

Emma Graham - Scout Section Team Leader

Anth Gibson - Scouts Team Member

Russel Stein - Scouts Team Member

Steph Hamilton - Scouts Team Member

Christopher Ong - Scouts Team Member

Tracy Selby - Scouts Team Member

Cubs 6.25-7.45 pm Wednesday

Jo Tunstall - Cubs Team Leader

Glennys Irish - Cubs team member

Ryan Hodgson - Cubs team member

Lee Hetherington - Cubs team member

Beavers 5.00-6.15pm Wednesday

Lisa Spence - Beaver Team Leader

Emma King - Beaver team member

Gemma Venn - Beaver team member

Jessica Lewis - Beaver team member

Squirrels 5-6pm Monday

Michaela Frazer – Squirrel team leader

Claire Bainbridge - Squirrel team member

Mel Lucas - Squirrel team member

Our membership now stands at

Squirrels - 10

Beavers - 20

Cubs - 25

Scouts - 23

Young Leaders/Explorers – 15

Waiting list 30+

The group as a whole is flourishing with a leadership team with over 50 years of experience between them and a strong understanding of scouting values, we have a group of young people from all sides of Darlington some even travelling from Hurworth and Neasham as the reputation of the 7th is well known in the area.

We believe strongly that spending time outdoors is a core part of scouting and a great place to teach life skills, and implement this with use of our campsite over on the Raby Estate in Staindrop. We have 12 camps in total planned this year alone as well as a summer camp in the Lake District, and some of our leaders and members are also attending a further District summer camp in Zandvoort in the Netherlands.

We continue to run a uniform/outdoor gear stock/exchange to enable those who are facing financial hardship to fully participate in our activities along with our hardship fund.

We are looking to grow all sections over the coming years and hope to bring scouting to more young people than ever before in Haughton, and with that become a valued part of the community.

You will quite often see leaders around outside of normal scouting hours as we potter about and tidy up the grounds and the hall itself. Please if you see anything happening you are not happy with then do get in touch and we will work with all concerned, we want to make the scout hall a welcoming place for all involved.

2025 is looking to be a very eventful year for all involved with the group and we look forward to many more to come in St Andrews Hall.

Guiding at St Andrew's by Emma Nimmo

1st Haughton-le-Skerne Rainbows

3rd Haughton-le-Skerne Brownies

1st Haughton-le-Skerne Guides & Rangers

Rainbows have welcomed new members, and have said goodbye to Rainbows moving up to Brownies. They have worked on the Fairytale badge, taking part in activities such as learning how to plait Rapunzel's hair, building a bridge for Bily Goats Gruff to cross and making fairytale character puppets. Rainbows got out of the meeting place with a sponsored walk, a scavenger hunt, a soft play session at Roarsome and attending the flag day at Beamish. Rainbows have also taken part in community projects, they collected books to leave for others to find, painted positive rocks to leave in the village, and collected for the food bank. Rainbows worked on the Helper badge, completing challenges at home, and in their community, from helping wash up at home to donating toys to charity. Rainbows took part in the Division science day, trying out lots of different experiments and watching a science show. They particularly liked making slime and taking it home to play with. Rainbows used the money they raised in their sponsored walk for a clip and climb session at Rof59.

Brownies have taken part in lots of activities in the meeting place, their favourite being toasting marshmallows over tealights to make s'mores. Brownies earned their stage 2 First Aid badge, learning what to do if someone is not responsive and how to make an emergency phone call. They also worked on the Mayday badge learning about water safety and held a tombola to raise money for the RNLI. We celebrated the end of the summer term with a Brownie festival, with games, music, glitter tattoos and mocktails. Brownies helped in the community this year by collecting for the foodbank, litter picking and taking part in a danceathon for Children in Need. Brownies got out of the meeting place, with a trip to see Moana, attending Flag Day at Beamish and a Division sleepover at Roarsome. Brownies put on a Christmas show, with girls planning their own performance to earn their Performing badge. We celebrated the end of term with a session from Create and Paint to paint Christmas mugs and a Christmas party.

Guides started the year with a trip to the Centre of Life in Newcastle and ice-skating. Guides earned their Make Change skills builder, choosing a charity and organising a fundraising evening for their cause. Girls raised money for the RSPCA Cat Hub, McMillian and Sands with tombola, bake sale and bracelet sales. Food was a popular activity with girls making churros, singing hinnie's, pancakes, biscuits, sherbet and sugar mice. Guides also held a mocktail party to earn their mixology badge with Patrols choosing a theme for their party, making mocktails and organising activities to fit their theme. Guides got out and about as much as they could, with wide games, chip shop walks, GPS trails, Flag Day at Beamish, the cinema and a sleepover at Roarsome. Guides also had the opportunity to go to the Division activity day at the hub trying canoeing, high ropes, archery and lino printing. The Guides helped their community by completing acts of kindness, making birthday boxes for the foodbank, going on a litter pick and decorating a tree for the local Christmas tree festival. We finished the year with our annual alternative Christmas dinner and present swap game.

None of this would have been possible without the commitment of our leaders and young leaders, as well as all of the parent helpers that make Guiding possible each week. We are also grateful for the support of the Church with our meetings in the church hall.

Other People, Groups and Events in 2024

A Brief Round-Up by Jane Teague (PCC Secretary)

Here is a brief round-up of some activities that went on at St Andrew's in 2024, which are not mentioned elsewhere in the Annual Report, and some of the people who were involved in making them happen.

- Burns Night in late January was celebrated with gusto, as ever, in the Church Hall.
- In January the Tuesday morning Holy Communion services restarted on alternate weeks.
- In February the hall heaters were replaced thanks to a generous specific anonymous donation.
- On 31 March our cleaner, Joyce Laverick, retired after 17 years of loyal behind-the-scenes service and she was presented with a gift from the church. While we waited for a new cleaner to be appointed, Muriel Jones co-ordinated a team of volunteers to cover cleaning in the Hall and the church for several weeks.
- At Easter we held an Agape Meal and Service on Maundy Thursday, a Good Friday Meditation and the Dawn Service early on Easter Sunday, as well as regular services. Some St Andrew's folk also joined in with the Town Centre Event of Witness organised by One Voice Darlington.
- In May on Ascension Day there was a shared service at St Andrew's Sadberge, followed by a Pie and Peas supper.
- In May at Holy Communion services the option of partaking of bread and wine separately was reintroduced, alongside the practice of partaking by intinction.
- In July major repairs to the church building, externally and internally, commenced.
- During the year we had visitors speaking at church services, including Bethan Still, Diocesan Environment Officer (April), Archdeacon Rick Simpson (June), Nicola Wells from Safe Families (June) and Samuel Ireton from Compassion (October).
- Over the summer, Sarah McTimoney challenged PCC members to between them visit all the churches in Darlington Deanery to find out what goes on in other churches with a view to learning from, and sharing with, them.
- Alan and Rael Wright again arranged for the church to be open to visitors in September as part of the national Heritage Open Days.

- We enjoyed Shared Lunches on some of the Fifth Sundays after the morning service in June (Amy's First Presiding) and September.
- In September Mark returned from holiday with a fractured and dislocated shoulder. Many thanks to all who stepped up to hold the fort in his absence.
- Barbara Davis underwent training in Children's Lay Ministry.
- In October a Memorial Service was held to remember those departed.
- We were joined by some Guides, Brownies and Rainbows at our Palm Sunday service and our October Harvest Festival service. On Remembrance Sunday, they joined us again, along with Scouts, Cubs and Beavers.
- In November a Giving Day was held with particular emphasis on raising funds for further building repairs which need doing.
- At the Christmas Fayre in November the St Andrew's 900th commemorative tea towel was launched to raise funds and whet our appetite for events planned for the anniversary year in 2025. Special thanks to Sheila Harris and Mike Hope and others who made it happen.
- On 30 November we celebrated St Andrew's Day with a service followed by the customary Fish and Chip supper, with the added bonus of several cabaret items by various people, organised/cajoled into performing by Amy Gooding.
- In the lead-up to Christmas we donated to the Salvation Army Toy Appeal. Amy organised an action-packed Scratch Nativity service, and we held an evening service of Carols and Readings, as well as two busy Christingle services. Carol singing took place in several local care homes.
- The ministry of services for the significant times in people's lives of baptisms, weddings and funerals continued throughout the year conducted mainly by Rev Mark East, Rev Sue Chew and Rev Amy Gooding. Preparation classes or meetings are also involved.

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of
The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Andrew, Haughton Le Skerne**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Andrew (the charity) for the year ended 31st December 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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

Signed:



Name: Matt Perry

Address: Giraffe HR, 41 Belle Vue Road, London, E17 4DQ

Date: 6th May 2025



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

St Andrew Haughton-Le-Skerne		Charity No (if any)	1134791
Annual accounts for the period			
01/01/2024	To	Period end date	31/12/2024

Section A Statement of financial activities



Recommended categories by activity	Guidance Notes	Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year funds
		£ F01	£ F02	£ F03	£ F04	£ F05
Incoming resources (Note 3)						
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies	S01	100,004	24,472	-	124,476	109,272
Charitable activities	S02	-	38,762	-	38,762	53,182
Other trading activities	S03	13,016	-	-	13,016	12,917
Investments	S04	-	-	-	-	-
Separate material item of income	S05	-	-	-	-	-
Other	S06	-	-	-	-	-
Total	S07	113,020	63,234	-	176,254	175,371
Resources expended (Note 6)						
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	S08	13,371	-	-	13,371	9,033
Charitable activities	S09	96,157	78,641	-	174,798	137,721
Separate material item of expense	S10	-	715	-	715	2,040
Other	S11	-	-	-	-	-
Total	S12	109,528	79,356	-	188,884	148,794
before investment gains/(losses)						
Net gains/(losses) on investments	S13	3,492	- 16,122	-	- 12,630	26,577
Net income/(expenditure)	S14	-	-	-	-	-
Extraordinary items	S15	3,492	- 16,122	-	- 12,630	26,577
Transfers between funds	S16	-	-	-	-	-
Other recognised	S17	- 21,109	21,109	-	-	-
Gains and losses on revaluation of fixed assets for the charity's own use	S18	-	-	-	-	-
Other gains/(losses)	S19	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	S20	- 17,617	4,987	-	- 12,630	26,577
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward	S21	77,847	87,988	-	165,835	139,258
Total funds carried forward	S22	60,230	92,975	-	153,205	165,835

Section B

Balance sheet

		Guidance Notes	Unrestricted funds £ F01	Restricted income funds £ F02	Endowment funds £ F03	Total this year £ F04	Total last year £ F05
Fixed assets							
Intangible assets (Note 15)	B01		-	-	-	-	-
Tangible assets (Note 14)	B02		50,000	-	-	50,000	50,000
Heritage assets (Note 16)	B03		-	-	-	-	-
Investments (Note 17)	B04		-	-	-	-	-
Total fixed assets	B05		50,000	-	-	50,000	50,000
Current assets							
Stocks (Note 18)	B06		-	-	-	-	-
Debtors (Note 19)	B07		12,736	-	-	12,736	8,460
Investments (Note 17.4)	B08		-	-	-	-	-
Cash at bank and in hand (Note 24)	B09		348	91,846	-	92,194	110,423
Total current assets	B10		13,084	91,846	-	104,930	118,883
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year (Note 20)	B11		1,769	-	-	1,769	3,046
Net current assets/(liabilities)	B12		11,315	91,846	-	103,161	115,837
Total assets less current liabilities	B13		61,315	91,846	-	153,161	165,837
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year (Note 20)	B14		-	-	-	-	-
Provisions for liabilities	B15		-	-	-	-	-
Total net assets or liabilities	B16		61,315	91,846	-	153,161	165,837
Funds of the Charity							
Endowment funds (Note 27)	B17		-	-	-	-	-
Restricted income funds (Note 27)	B18		-	92,975	-	92,975	87,988
Unrestricted funds	B19		60,230	-	-	60,230	77,847
Revaluation reserve	B20		-	-	-	-	-
Total funds	B21		60,230	92,975	-	153,205	165,835

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval dd/mm/yyyy
	REV M.R. EAST	04/05/2025
	A.M. TEAGUE	4/5/25

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of
The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Andrew, Haughton Le Skerne**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Andrew (the charity) for the year ended 31st December 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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

Signed:



Name: Matt Perry

Address: Giraffe HR, 41 Belle Vue Road, London, E17 4DQ

Date: 6th May 2025



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

St Andrew Haughton-Le-Skerne		Charity No (if any)	1134791
Annual accounts for the period			
01/01/2024	To	Period end date	31/12/2024

Section A

Statement of financial activities



Recommended categories by activity	Guidance Notes	Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year funds
		£ F01	£ F02	£ F03	£ F04	£ F05
Incoming resources (Note 3)						
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies	S01	100,004	24,472	-	124,476	109,272
Charitable activities	S02	-	38,762	-	38,762	53,182
Other trading activities	S03	13,016	-	-	13,016	12,917
Investments	S04	-	-	-	-	-
Separate material item of income	S05	-	-	-	-	-
Other	S06	-	-	-	-	-
Total	S07	113,020	63,234	-	176,254	175,371
Resources expended (Note 6)						
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	S08	13,371	-	-	13,371	9,033
Charitable activities	S09	96,157	78,641	-	174,798	137,721
Separate material item of expense	S10	-	715	-	715	2,040
Other	S11	-	-	-	-	-
Total	S12	109,528	79,356	-	188,884	148,794
before investment gains/(losses)						
Net gains/(losses) on investments	S13	3,492	- 16,122	-	- 12,630	26,577
Net income/(expenditure)	S14	-	-	-	-	-
Extraordinary items	S15	3,492	- 16,122	-	- 12,630	26,577
Transfers between funds	S16	-	-	-	-	-
Other recognised	S17	- 21,109	21,109	-	-	-
Gains and losses on revaluation of fixed assets for the charity's own use	S18	-	-	-	-	-
Other gains/(losses)	S19	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	S20	- 17,617	4,987	-	- 12,630	26,577
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward	S21	77,847	87,988	-	165,835	139,258
Total funds carried forward	S22	60,230	92,975	-	153,205	165,835

Section B

Balance sheet

		Guidance Notes	Unrestricted funds £ F01	Restricted income funds £ F02	Endowment funds £ F03	Total this year £ F04	Total last year £ F05
Fixed assets							
Intangible assets (Note 15)	B01		-	-	-	-	-
Tangible assets (Note 14)	B02		50,000	-	-	50,000	50,000
Heritage assets (Note 16)	B03		-	-	-	-	-
Investments (Note 17)	B04		-	-	-	-	-
Total fixed assets	B05		50,000	-	-	50,000	50,000
Current assets							
Stocks (Note 18)	B06		-	-	-	-	-
Debtors (Note 19)	B07		12,736	-	-	12,736	8,460
Investments (Note 17.4)	B08		-	-	-	-	-
Cash at bank and in hand (Note 24)	B09		348	91,846	-	92,194	110,423
Total current assets	B10		13,084	91,846	-	104,930	118,883
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year (Note 20)	B11		1,769	-	-	1,769	3,046
Net current assets/(liabilities)	B12		11,315	91,846	-	103,161	115,837
Total assets less current liabilities	B13		61,315	91,846	-	153,161	165,837
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year (Note 20)	B14		-	-	-	-	-
Provisions for liabilities	B15		-	-	-	-	-
Total net assets or liabilities	B16		61,315	91,846	-	153,161	165,837
Funds of the Charity							
Endowment funds (Note 27)	B17		-	-	-	-	-
Restricted income funds (Note 27)	B18		-	92,975	-	92,975	87,988
Unrestricted funds	B19		60,230	-	-	60,230	77,847
Revaluation reserve	B20		-	-	-	-	-
Total funds	B21		60,230	92,975	-	153,205	165,835

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval dd/mm/yyyy
	REV M.R. EAST	04/05/2025
	A.M. TEAGUE	4/5/25