

# THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS HOUGHTON-LE-SPRING

England & Wales · Charity number 1135095

## Details

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Other names	ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS PCC HOUGHTON-LE-SPRING
Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2010-03-22
Register	<a href="#">View on the Charity Commission register</a>

## Contact

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Address	17 Gillas Lane West Houghton Le Spring DH5 8JX
Phone	01915526959
Email	<a href="mailto:stmichaels.hls@gmail.com">stmichaels.hls@gmail.com</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.stmichaels-hls.org.uk">www.stmichaels-hls.org.uk</a>

## Activities

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

**Activities:** Church of England for the parish of Houghton-le-spring St Michaels and All Angels

## Classification

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

## Geography

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

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£291,542	£293,203	-	-
2023-12-31	£239,853	£267,807	-	-
2022-12-31	£238,091	£206,921	-	-
2021-12-31	£104,208	£104,915	-	-
2020-12-31	£90,192	£86,694	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
ALASTAIR BRADLEY		
Brian MacDowell Scott		2017-04-01
David Robert Hann		2020-10-31
David William Turnbull		2018-03-04
Dian Scott		2018-03-04
Dr ANGELA JENNIFER SLATER		2017-04-01
Jade Turnbull-Mason		2023-03-26
KATHLEEN CLOSE		2015-03-25
MALCOLM JAMES FOSTER		2017-04-01
RITA TURNBULL		2017-04-01
Rev John William Barron		2019-04-07
SIMON PAUL HARDY BSC HONS		
SUSAN ELSEY		2015-03-21
Sheila Marie Foster		2019-04-07
Susan Bradley		2020-10-25

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# Accounts

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St Michael & All Angels  
Houghton-le-Spring

# ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING 2025

Sunday 18th May  
11.15 am





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## **1. Introduction**

The Church of England parish church of St Michael and All Angels in the ancient town of Houghton-le-Spring has been at the heart of our community for over a thousand years. Our magnificent church building stands as a visible symbol of Christ's presence, as do the many ways we reach out to support and serve our local community.

This report celebrates the work of the church in the last year through our church groups, including the activities of our community project 'Space4', as well as the activities of organisations with strong affiliations to St Michael's. A report of our church finances is given, together with a report on the finances of Space4 which are managed separately. A consolidated report of both sets of finances is also provided.

## **2. Parochial Church Council 2024-25**

- The PCC is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes an unincorporated charity.
- Its Registered Charity number is 1135095
- Its principal address is Church Street, Houghton le Spring, DH4 4DN

In accordance with its governing document, 'The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical, as well as the maintenance and upkeep of the ancient building.

- The PCC meets monthly throughout the year and may hold extraordinary meetings as and when they are required.
- Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.
- The Standing Committee of the PCC is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the PCC. The Standing Committee consists of the Rector, Church Wardens, Assistant Wardens, Treasurer and Secretary.

During the past year, the following served as members of the PCC:

Incumbent	Reverend John Barron
Church Wardens	Rita Turnbull, Alastair Bradley
Treasurer, Gift Aid Officer	Sue Bradley
Secretary	Angela Slater
Ministry Team Representative	Reverend Margaret Lee
Deanery Synod Representatives	David Hann, Dian Scott, Susan Elsey (term of office 2023 -2026)
Elected members	Term of office 2024-2027 Sheila Foster, David Turnbull Term of office 2023-2026 Malcolm Foster, Brian Scott (Assistant Church Warden), Clare Taylor, Jade Turnbull-Mason Term of office 2022-2025 Lynn Scott, Simon Hardy (Assistant Church Warden) Term of office 2024-2025 Kathleen Close
Co-opted member	George Peebles (Director of Music)

The following served as Sidespersons:

Joan Beattie	Sheila Gamble	Evelyn Garbutt
Elaine Harkness	Jean Henderson	Brian Scott
Dian Scott	Catherine Moore	David Turnbull
Rita Turnbull	John Wilde	Susan Wilde
Bob Wile.		

The Parish Safeguarding Officer is: Ali Young.

The Independent Examiner was:

TTR Barnes Limited  
Chartered Accountants  
3 – 5 Grange Terrace  
Stockton Road  
Sunderland  
SR2 7DG.

### **3. Changes in membership of the Electoral Roll, 2024**

Every six years the Electoral Roll has to be re-done with everyone who attends Church having to reapply and fill in a new Electoral Roll form. This year is six years since it was last done so everyone has had to fill in a new form.

The number on last year's Roll was 124 and the figure for this year is 77.

We have an additional five members of the church who are clergy, four of whom have 'Permission to Officiate' (PTO).

Rita Turnbull is the Electoral Roll Officer.

#### 4. Church Report for 2024: The Year in Review

St Michael and All Angels Church continued to play a vital role in serving the local community of Houghton-le-Spring throughout the year, facilitating worship, prayer and various community events. Our weekly services included 3-4 Holy Communion services, 1-2 Services of the Word, and up to 4 Baptism services per month. Additionally, we held seasonal, civic, and special services to cater to the diverse needs of our community. Our online presence remained strong, with a weekly Facebook service complementing our in-person worship. Our 'Church at Home' community allowed those unable to attend physically to receive Holy Communion from members of our Ministry Team. Our 'Usual Sunday Attendance' in the church building experienced a slight decrease to 77 (71 adults and 6 children), compared to 82 (79 adults and 3 children) in the previous year. However, our average weekly attendance in October saw an increase to 156 (compared to 105 the previous year) due to several special services held during this period.

We were honoured to host various significant civic services, including the annual 'Feast Service' in October, attended by the Deputy Lord Lieutenant, the Mayor of Sunderland, and other distinguished guests. A memorable lunch at Kepier Hall followed the service, bringing the community together. Our traditional Remembrance Sunday service saw a full church, with numerous attendees participating in the outdoor Act of Remembrance at the Cenotaph. Advent and Christmas were marked by well-attended Carol Services, with 370 people joining us on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day (compared to 395 the previous year). Easter attendance increased slightly to 120 (from 118 last year).

Our monthly 'All Age Communion' service explored a range of engaging themes, such as 'Taking Care of Our World', 'The World as It Is and the World as It Should Be', and 'Being Part of Something Bigger'. While the service is different from our regular Sunday worship, it remains essential in encouraging our children and young people's faith journey. On St Francis Day, we hosted an inclusive 'Pet Service' (or 'All Age and All Species' worship) that welcomed pets and cuddly toys for the first time as part of our main Sunday worship. Local Guides attended three services, and Scouts joined us for Christmas and Remembrance Services. We were delighted that all three local primary schools attended Christmas services and visited the church during the year. Kepier School held Remembrance and Christmas services with us as well. Although the number of children regularly attending worship and participating in our 'worshipping community' has seen a slight increase, it remains a concern that we aim to address more proactively in the future.

Music continued to be an integral part of our church life last year. Our talented Musical Director and Organist George Peebles led our skilled robed choir, accompanied by Nikki Lipinski. They enhanced our worship at six or more services every month, in addition to significant seasonal and special services. The Gilpin Singers, our community choir led by Laura Parkin, held their annual concerts and a successful fundraising event during Houghton Feast, also supporting our Summer Concert. We hosted a variety of music events, including Concerts, Organ Recitals, and Brass Bands. Alongside our traditional worship music, our 'All-age' and 'Engage' services feature more contemporary music, led by Stuart Clappison and Andy Slater. Andy also regularly plays the organ at our services.

We sustained our collaboration with St Matthew's, Newbottle and St Michael & All Angels, Easington Lane, organizing joint activities such as a Lent course, and holding joint services on Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, and Advent Sunday. We await further guidance from the Archdeacon of Durham regarding our progression towards a Group Ministry structure.

Throughout the year, we conducted 41 baptisms, slightly fewer than the 49 of the previous year. We hosted 2 weddings, a decrease from the 7 held the year before. The number of funerals also saw a decline, with 22 funerals last year, compared to 36 in the previous year and typically 40+ in earlier years. This downward trend is consistent with broader community patterns. We have provided care for one another during bereavement and reached out to support those grieving through our funeral ministry, an 'All Souls' service, a Remembering Service at Christmas in collaboration with Derek Moss Funeral Directors, and a monthly bereavement support group in our Space4 Hub on Newbottle Street.

Our ministry team continued to operate a 'Pastoral Care Scheme' to nurture our wider church family, complemented by the exceptional informal care provided among church members. The production and distribution of our parish 'Signpost' magazine remained a vital means of staying connected with individuals who are still an integral part of our church family despite being less able to attend services in person. We are incredibly fortunate to have an active and hardworking chapter of Mothers' Union at Houghton, which has offered invaluable care to church members and the wider community.

Retired ordained ministers with Permission to Officiate (PTO) – Rev'd Margaret Lee, Rev'd Judith Howes, and Rev'd Claire Cullingworth – along with our devoted team of Readers – Sue Elsey, Ros Pickersgill, and Anne Clappison – have provided indispensable support to our church. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to them, our Standing Committee and to PCC for their tireless efforts behind the scenes, addressing matters related to finances, human resources, administration, and building management. A significant amount of work has been undertaken to maintain the functioning of our church building, with tremendous assistance from our church wardens, verger, technical verger, assistant verger, cleaners, gardeners, stewards, linen and silver washers, brass polishers, tea makers, cake bakers, rota volunteers and others. Our creative flower arrangers and dedicated open-church stewards also deserve our immense gratitude. Additionally, our incredible Parish Administrator has provided indispensable support to our church members, the broader community, and the Rector.

We made remarkable strides in serving our community through the Space4 project. Our primary objective is to foster a 'Space4 everyone to flourish,' concentrating on alleviating food poverty, supporting individuals grappling with isolation and anxiety (especially the elderly and marginalized), and tackling inequalities that affect children and young people. A notable shift in our project focus was transforming our foodbank into a community food store where people can select the food they need and contribute donations if they are capable. Additionally, we collaborate with 'Tyne and Wear Citizens' to venture into Community Organising, enabling us to challenge injustices faced by our local communities.

Over the year, we experienced several staffing changes, and our new Space4 Manager, Justine Merton-Scott, is now leading the project toward greater success. In the early part of the year, we secured additional funding from external grant providers. Notably, we were fortunate to obtain substantial funding from the Lottery's Reaching Community Fund, allowing the project to carry out this crucial work for the next three years. As an indication of our impact, our Foodstore served a cumulative total of 1891 households in 2024, while our drop-in recorded a total footfall of 6118 individuals over the year. Our weekly children's group 'Teatime Treat' had footfall of 1038 children and toddler group 'Stay and Play' footfall of 727 children. We are fortunate to have a solid and committed Project Board comprising PCC members and community representatives to guide our project.

During the first two quarters of the year, we encountered several financial challenges and anticipated a considerable shortfall by the year's end. Major financial pressures included reduced income from regular giving and collections, significantly lower fees from weddings and funerals, and higher running expenses (particularly heating and lighting). To address the projected shortfall, we implemented several measures. In the short term, we paused our parish share payments to manage cash flow. We launched a stewardship campaign, intensified fundraising efforts, and worked diligently to cut costs. Our congregations displayed immense generosity, providing substantial one-off donations and pledging increased giving. Additionally, we organized significant fundraising events during the second half of the year. Collectively, these acts of generosity and tireless work significantly strengthened our financial position by year's end, allowing us to pay our parish share in full.

In the final quarter of the year, we joined the pilot national 'Organising for Growth' programme, focusing on fostering growth within families with young children. This initiative, run by the Centre for Theology and Community, aims to support Anglican parishes across the UK in expanding their congregations. The programme integrates community organising (a familiar concept from our Space4 project work) with prayer and theological reflection. The initial stages of the programme heavily emphasize 'listening' to both our congregations and the wider community. We hope that this approach will prove instrumental in promoting growth in our church's membership, depth and social impact.

**5. ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS  
HOUGHTON LE SPRING:  
INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT**

**1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2024**

**REGISTERED CHARITY NO 1135095**

**External Examiner  
TTR Barnes  
Chartered Accountants**

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of  
St Michael and All Angels Parish Church**

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of St Michael and All Angels Parish Church**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of St Michael and All Angels Parish (the Trust) for the year ended 31 December 2024.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

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

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under Section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all 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 Trust as required by Section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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



David Cook FCCA

TTR Barnes Limited  
Chartered Accountants  
3-5 Grange Terrace  
Stockton Road  
Sunderland  
Tyne & Wear  
SR2 7DG

Date: 17 April 2025

**6. ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS: FINANCIAL  
STATEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDING 31<sup>st</sup> DEC 2024**

**6.1 ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS  
HOUGHTON LE SPRING: CONSOLIDATED  
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

**1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2024**

**REGISTERED CHARITY NO 1135095**

**External Examiner  
TTR Barnes  
Chartered Accountants**



Annual accounts for the period

Period start date	01/01/2024	To	Period end date	31/12/2024
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## Section A Statement of financial activities

Recommended categories by activity	Guidance	Restricted			Total funds	Prior year funds
		Unrestricted funds	income funds	Endowment funds		
		£	£	£	£	£
		F01	F02	F03	F04	F05
<b>Incoming resources (Note 3)</b>						
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>						
Voluntary Income	S01	89,558	164,594	-	254,152	201,142
Income from Trading and Activities	S02	25,849	11,251	-	37,100	40,974
Investment Income	S03	86	204	-	290	125
Other	S04	-	-	-	-	-
	S06	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	S07	115,493	176,049	-	291,542	242,241
<b>Resources expended (Note 6)</b>						
<b>Expenditure on:</b>						
Raising funds	S08	9,238	102	-	9,340	12,978
Charitable activities	S09	62,886	168,468	-	231,353	206,121
Facilities Costs	S10	34,275	16,645	-	50,919	51,580
Independent Examiner	S11	1,590	-	-	1,590	-
<b>Total</b>	S12	107,988	185,214	-	293,203	270,679
<b>Net income/(expenditure) before investment gains/(losses)</b>	S13	7,505	- 9,165	-	- 1,660	- 28,438
Net gains/(losses) on investments	S14	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Net income/(expenditure) Extraordinary items</b>	S15	7,505	- 9,165	-	- 1,660	- 28,438
<b>Transfers between funds</b>	S16	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Other recognised gains/(losses):</b>	S17	3,245	- 3,245	-	-	-
Gains and losses on revaluation of fixed assets for the charity's own use	S18	-	-	-	-	-
Other gains/(losses)	S19	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	S20	10,750	- 12,410	-	- 1,660	- 28,438
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>						
Total funds brought forward	S21	70,976	72,295	-	143,271	171,709
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	S22	81,726	59,885	-	141,611	143,271

**Section B**

**Balance sheet**

		Guidance	Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Endowment funds	Total this year	Total last year
			£	£	£	£	£
			F01	F02	F03	F04	F05
<b>Fixed assets</b>							
Intangible assets	(Note 15)	B01	-	-	-	-	-
Tangible assets	(Note 14)	B02	-	-	-	-	-
Heritage assets	(Note 16)	B03	-	-	-	-	-
Investments	(Note 17)	B04	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total fixed assets</b>		B05	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Current assets</b>							
Stocks	(Note 18)	B06	-	12,017	-	12,017	1,432
Debtors and Prepayments	(Note 19)	B07	478	6,747	-	7,225	2,388
Investments	(Note 17.4)	B08	-	-	-	-	-
Cash at bank and in hand	(Note 24)	B09	83,033	43,722	-	126,755	143,739
<b>Total current assets</b>		B10	83,511	62,486	-	145,997	147,559
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>		B11	1,786	2,601	-	4,387	4,288
<b>Net current assets/(liabilities)</b>		B12	81,725	59,885	-	141,610	143,271
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		B13	81,725	59,885	-	141,610	143,271
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due after one year</b>		B14	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Provisions for liabilities</b>		B15	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total net assets or liabilities</b>		B16	81,725	59,885	-	141,610	143,271
<b>Funds of the Charity</b>							
Endowment funds	(Note 27)	B17	-	0	-	0	0
Restricted income funds	(Note 27)	B18	-	59,885	-	59,885	72,295
Unrestricted funds		B19	81,726	-	-	81,726	70,976
Revaluation reserve		B20	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total funds</b>		B21	81,726	59,885	-	141,611	143,271

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

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval dd/mm/yyyy
<i>S-Bradley</i>	SBradley	17/4/2005
<i>John B...</i>	John B...	17/4/2005

## Note 1 Basis of preparation

***This section should be completed by all charities .***

**1.1 Basis of accounting**

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with:

- and with\* 

✓
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 the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014
- and with\* 

✓
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 the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)
- and with the Charities Act 2011.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.\*

YES
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\* -Tick as appropriate

**1.2 Going concern**

***If there are material uncertainties related to events or conditions that cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, please provide the following details or state "Not applicable", if appropriate:***

An explanation as to those factors that support the conclusion that the charity is a going concern;

<p><i>The final statements have been prepared on the going concern basis. At the time of approving the financial statements, the incumbent have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus, the incumbent continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.</i></p>
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**1.3 Change of accounting policy**

The accounts present a true and fair view and the accounting policies adopted are those outlined in note { }.

Yes\*

✓
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No\*

☒
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\* -Tick as appropriate

***Please disclose:***

<b><i>(i) the nature of the change in accounting policy;</i></b>	Change from cash basis accounting to accruals basis accounting
<b><i>(ii) the reasons why applying the new accounting policy provides more reliable and more relevant information; and</i></b>	Charity total turnover exceed the legal threshold of £250,000, requiring accruals basis accounting going forward.
<b><i>(iii) the amount of the adjustment for each line affected in the current period, each prior period presented and the aggregate amount of the adjustment relating to periods before those presented, 3.44 FRS 102 SORP.</i></b>	Prior period presented, 2023, now recognises the following adjustments to previously presented balance for this period on tab N2. This adjustment now considers debtors, creditors and stock held.

**Note 2 Accounting policies**

Please complete this note when first reporting under FRS2102. Section 35 of FRS102, requires 3 reconciliations to be presented, if all are applicable.

**2.1 RECONCILIATION WITH PREVIOUS GENERALLY ACCEPTED ACCOUNTING PRACTICE**

Please provide a description of the nature of each change in accounting policy

Change from cash basis accounting to accruals basis accounting
--

**Reconciliation of funds per previous GAAP to funds determined under FRS 102**

	Start of period £	End of period £
Fund balances as previously stated	171694	143740
<b>Adjustments:</b>		
Debtors		2388
Stock		1432
Creditors		-4288
Opening Balance	16	
Fund balance as restated	<u>171709</u>	<u>143272</u>

**Reconciliation of net income/(net expenditure) per previous GAAP to net income/(net expenditure) under FRS 102**

	End of period £
Net income/(expenditure) as previously stated	-27954
<b>Adjustments:</b>	
Debtors	2388
Stock	1432
Creditors	-4288
Opening Balance	-16
Previous period net income/(expenditure) as restated	<u>-28438</u>

**Note 2**                      **Accounting policies**  
**2.2 INCOME**

This standard list of accounting policies has been applied by the charity except for those ticked "No" or "N/a". Where a different or additional policy has been adopted then this is detailed in the box below.

<b>Recognition of income</b>	<p>These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the charity becomes entitled to the resources;</li> <li>it is more likely than not that the trustees will receive the resources; and</li> <li>the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.</li> </ul>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Yes</th> <th>No</th> <th>N/a</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">✓</td> <td style="text-align: center;">✓</td> <td style="text-align: center;">✓</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Yes	No	N/a	✓	✓	✓
Yes	No	N/a						
✓	✓	✓						
<b>Offsetting</b>	<p>There has been no offsetting of assets and liabilities, or income and expenses, unless required or permitted by the FRS 102 SORP or FRS 102.</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Yes</th> <th>No</th> <th>N/a</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">✓</td> <td style="text-align: center;">✓</td> <td style="text-align: center;">✓</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Yes	No	N/a	✓	✓	✓
Yes	No	N/a						
✓	✓	✓						
<b>Grants and donations</b>	<p>Grants and donations are only included in the SoFA when the general income recognition criteria are met (5.10 to 5.12 FRS102 SORP).</p> <p>In the case of performance related grants, income must only be recognised to the extent that the charity has provided the specified goods or services as entitlement to the grant only occurs when the performance related conditions are met (5.16 FRS 102 SORP).</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Yes</th> <th>No</th> <th>N/a</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">✓</td> <td style="text-align: center;">✓</td> <td style="text-align: center;">✓</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Yes	No	N/a	✓	✓	✓
Yes	No	N/a						
✓	✓	✓						
<b>Legacies</b>	<p>Legacies are included in the SOFA when receipt is probable, that is, when there has been grant of probate, the executors have established that there are sufficient assets in the estate and any conditions attached to the legacy are either within the control of the charity or have been met.</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Yes</th> <th>No</th> <th>N/a</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">✓</td> <td style="text-align: center;">✓</td> <td style="text-align: center;">✓</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Yes	No	N/a	✓	✓	✓
Yes	No	N/a						
✓	✓	✓						
<b>Government grants</b>	<p>The charity has received government grants in the reporting period</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Yes</th> <th>No</th> <th>N/a</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">✓</td> <td style="text-align: center;">✓</td> <td style="text-align: center;">✓</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Yes	No	N/a	✓	✓	✓
Yes	No	N/a						
✓	✓	✓						
<b>Tax reclaims on donations and gifts</b>	<p>Gift Aid receivable is included in income when there is a valid declaration from the donor. Any Gift Aid amount recovered on a donation is considered to be part of that gift and is treated as an addition to the same fund as the initial donation unless the donor or the terms of the appeal have specified otherwise.</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Yes</th> <th>No</th> <th>N/a</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">✓</td> <td style="text-align: center;">✓</td> <td style="text-align: center;">✓</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Yes	No	N/a	✓	✓	✓
Yes	No	N/a						
✓	✓	✓						
<b>Contractual income and performance related grants</b>	<p>This is only included in the SoFA once the charity has provided the related goods or services or met the performance related conditions.</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Yes</th> <th>No</th> <th>N/a</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">✓</td> <td style="text-align: center;">✓</td> <td style="text-align: center;">✓</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Yes	No	N/a	✓	✓	✓
Yes	No	N/a						
✓	✓	✓						
<b>Donated goods</b>	<p>Donated goods are measured at fair value (the amount for which the asset could be exchanged) unless impractical to do so.</p> <p>The cost of any stock of goods donated for distribution to beneficiaries is deemed to be the fair value of those gifts at the time of their receipt and they are recognised on receipt. In the reporting period in which the stocks are distributed, they are recognised as an expense at the carrying amount of the stocks at distribution.</p> <p>Donated goods for resale are measured at fair value on initial recognition, which is the expected proceeds from sale less the expected costs of sale, and recognised in 'Income from other trading activities' with the corresponding stock recognised in the balance sheet. On its sale the value of stock is charged against 'Income from other trading activities' and the proceeds from sale are also recognised as 'Income from other trading activities'.</p> <p>Gifts in kind for use by the charity are included in the SoFA as income from donations when receivable.</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Yes</th> <th>No</th> <th>N/a</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">✓</td> <td style="text-align: center;">✓</td> <td style="text-align: center;">✓</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Yes	No	N/a	✓	✓	✓
Yes	No	N/a						
✓	✓	✓						
<b>Donated services and facilities</b>	<p>Donated services and facilities are included in the SOFA when received at the value of the gift to the charity provided the value of the gift can be measured reliably.</p> <p>Donated services and facilities that are consumed immediately are recognised as income with an equivalent amount recognised as an expense under the appropriate heading in the SOFA.</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Yes</th> <th>No</th> <th>N/a</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">✓</td> <td style="text-align: center;">✓</td> <td style="text-align: center;">✓</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Yes	No	N/a	✓	✓	✓
Yes	No	N/a						
✓	✓	✓						
<b>Volunteer help</b>	<p>The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Yes</th> <th>No</th> <th>N/a</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">✓</td> <td style="text-align: center;">✓</td> <td style="text-align: center;">✓</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Yes	No	N/a	✓	✓	✓
Yes	No	N/a						
✓	✓	✓						
<b>Income from interest, royalties and dividends</b>	<p>This is included in the accounts when receipt is probable and the amount receivable can be measured reliably.</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Yes</th> <th>No</th> <th>N/a</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">✓</td> <td style="text-align: center;">✓</td> <td style="text-align: center;">✓</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Yes	No	N/a	✓	✓	✓
Yes	No	N/a						
✓	✓	✓						
<b>Income from membership subscriptions</b>	<p>Membership subscriptions received in the nature of a gift are recognised in Donations and Legacies.</p> <p>Membership subscriptions which gives a member the right to buy services or other benefits are recognised as income earned from the provision of goods and services as income from charitable activities.</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Yes</th> <th>No</th> <th>N/a</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">✓</td> <td style="text-align: center;">✓</td> <td style="text-align: center;">✓</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Yes	No	N/a	✓	✓	✓
Yes	No	N/a						
✓	✓	✓						

<b>Settlement of insurance claims</b>	Insurance claims are only included in the SoFA when the general income recognition criteria are met (5.10 to 5.12 FRS102 SORP) and are included as an item of other income in the SoFA.	Yes	No	N/a
		✓	✓	✓

## 2.3 EXPENDITURE AND LIABILITIES

<b>Liability recognition</b>	Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.	Yes	No	N/a
		✓	✓	✓

<b>Governance and support costs</b>	Support costs have been allocated between governance costs and other support. Governance costs comprise all costs involving public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice.	Yes	No	N/a
		✓	✓	✓

	Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, eg allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.	Yes	No	N/a
		✓	✓	✓

<b>Grants payable without performance conditions</b>	Where there are no conditions attaching to the grant that enables the donor charity to realistically avoid the commitment, a liability for the full funding obligation must be recognised.	Yes	No	N/a
		✓	✓	✓

<b>Redundancy cost</b>	The charity made no redundancy payments during the reporting period.	Yes	No	N/a
		✓	✓	✓

<b>Deferred income</b>	No material item of deferred income has been included in the accounts.	Yes	No	N/a
		✓	✓	✓

<b>Creditors</b>	The charity has creditors which are measured at settlement amounts less any trade discounts	Yes	No	N/a
		✓	✓	✓

<b>Provisions for liabilities</b>	A liability is measured on recognition at its historical cost and then subsequently measured at the best estimate of the amount required to settle the obligation at the reporting date	Yes	No	N/a
		✓	✓	✓

<b>Basic financial instruments</b>	The charity accounts for basic financial instruments on initial recognition as per paragraph 11.7 FRS102 SORP. Subsequent measurement is as per paragraphs 11.17 to 11.19, FRS102 SORP.	Yes	No	N/a
		✓	✓	✓

<b>Taxation</b>	The Charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities	Yes	No	N/a
		✓	✓	✓

<b>Fund Accounting</b>	General funds represent funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC. Any funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted. The accounts include all transactions for which the PCC is responsible for in law. They do not include the accounts of Church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.	Yes	No	N/a
		✓	✓	✓

## 2.4 ASSETS

<b>Tangible fixed assets for use by charity</b>	These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least 1000	Yes	No	N/a
		✓	✓	✓

	They are valued at cost.	Yes	No	N/a
		✓	✓	✓

	The depreciation rates and methods used are disclosed in note 9.2.	Yes	No	N/a
		✓	✓	✓

	Goods or services provided as part of a charitable activity are measured at net realisable value based on the service potential provided by items of stock.	Yes	No	N/a
		✓	✓	✓

<b>Debtors</b>	Debtors (including trade debtors and loans receivable) are measured on initial recognition at settlement amount after any trade discounts or amount advanced by the charity. Subsequently, they are measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be received.	Yes	No	N/a
		✓	✓	✓

### POLICIES ADOPTED ADDITIONAL TO OR DIFFERENT FROM THOSE ABOVE

<b>2.4 Tangible Fixed Assets</b>	Consecrated land beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by S.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 2011. No value is placed on moveable church furnishings held be churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal since the PCC considers this to be inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or benefice buildings and moveable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as incurred in the SOFA.
----------------------------------	--

## Note 3 Analysis of income

Analysis		Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	Total funds	Prior year
		funds	income funds	funds	£	£
Donations and legacies:	Donations and gifts	57,819	5,148	-	62,967	60,414
	Gift Aid	30,202	360	-	30,562	24,669
	Legacies	1,187	-	-	1,187	-
	General grants provided by government/other charities	-	-	-	-	-
	Membership subscriptions and sponsorships which are in substance donations	-	-	-	-	-
	Donated goods, facilities and services	-	-	-	-	-
	Other	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>89,208</b>	<b>5,508</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>94,716</b>	<b>85,083</b>	
Charitable activities:		-	-	-	-	-
	Grants	-	159,086	-	159,086	116,059
	Sales	14,633	10,246	-	24,880	32,286
	Fundraising	11,565	-	-	11,565	8,688
	Room Hire	-	1,005	-	1,005	-
	Other	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>26,198</b>	<b>170,337</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>196,535</b>	<b>157,033</b>	
Other trading activities:		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
	Other	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	
Income from investments:	Interest income	86	204	-	290	125
	Dividend income	-	-	-	-	-
	Rental and leasing income	-	-	-	-	-
	Other	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>125</b>	
Separate material item of income:		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
	<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
Other:	Conversion of endowment funds into income	-	-	-	-	-
	Gain on disposal of a tangible fixed asset held for charity's own use	-	-	-	-	-
	Gain on disposal of a programme related investment	-	-	-	-	-
	Royalties from the exploitation of intellectual property rights	-	-	-	-	-
	Other	-	-	-	-	-
	<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>115,493</b>	<b>176,049</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>291,542</b>	<b>242,241</b>	

## Other information:

All income in the prior year was unrestricted except for:  
(please provide description and amounts)

Warm Spaces Grant from Sunderland Council - 5000, SCC Grant - 1028, SCC Holiday - 4388, RCF - 92480, Other space 4 restricted donations, match funding and fundraising - 31,518

## Note 4

## Analysis of receipts of government

	Description	This year £
SCC Products	Provision for Foodbank /Community Foodstore - restricted to product costs.	7,000
Digital Hub	Provision of an IT Hub - restricted to IT & Office equipment, ongoing IT support costs	9,261
SCC Grant 24	Provision for Foodbank /Community Foodstore - restricted to product costs.	32,000
Links for Life	Provide extended drop-in, brunch service and slowcooker courses - restricted to salaries, food and activity expenses	17,410
SCC Hol. 2	Holiday club provision - restricted to accommodation, product costs, expenses.	4,917
SCC Grant	Provision for Foodbank /Community Foodstore - restricted to product costs.	4,799
christmas lunch	Provision for Food for Christmas Day Lunch for people who are isolated, lonely and on the margins - restricted to food supply	1,149
Other		-
	<b>Total</b>	<b>76,535</b>

	Description	Last year £
SCC Grant	Accommodation, product costs, expenses	1,028
SCC Holiday	Accommodation, product costs, expenses	4,388
Warm SpaceS	Utilities costs	5,000
Other		-
	<b>Total</b>	<b>10,416</b>

## Note 6

## Analysis of expenditure

Analysis	This year				Last year			
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Endowment funds	Total funds
<b>Expenditure on raising funds:</b>				£				£
Incurred seeking donations	7,960	-	-	7,960	11,280	-	-	11,280
Investment administration costs		102	-	102	-	94	-	94
<b>Total expenditure on raising funds</b>	<b>7,960</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8,062</b>	<b>11,280</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>11,373</b>
<b>Expenditure on charitable activities:</b>								
Staff salaries	9,824	102,872	-	112,696	9,091	75,027	-	84,118
Sessional Workers	-	3,613	-	3,613	-	18,051	-	18,051
Accommodation	32,300	16,645	-	48,945	31,322	26,502	-	57,824
Product Costs	5,169	38,098	-	43,267		25,290		25,290
Expenses	6,867	4,536		11,402	7,154	4,416		11,570
Office Costs & Training		1,670		1,670		2,428		2,428
Equipment		8,582		8,582		1,975		1,975
Professional fees		9,097		9,097		9,446		9,446
Cost of sales	1,278			1,278	1,605			1,605
Parish Share	43,000			43,000	47,000			47,000
<b>Total expenditure on charitable activities</b>	<b>98,438</b>	<b>185,112</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>283,550</b>	<b>96,171</b>	<b>163,134</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>259,305</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>106,398</b>	<b>185,214</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>291,612</b>	<b>107,451</b>	<b>163,228</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>270,679</b>

## Other information:

## Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

Activity or programme	This year				Last year			
	Activities undertaken directly	Grant funding of activities	Support Costs	Total this year	Activities undertaken directly	Grant funding of activities	Support Costs	Total last year
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Space 4	22,229	162,883	-	185,112	46,481	116,728	-	163,209
Church	106,500		-	106,500	107,470		-	107,470
Other								
<b>Total</b>	<b>128,729</b>	<b>162,883</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>291,612</b>	<b>153,951</b>	<b>116,728</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>270,679</b>

**Section C Notes to the accounts**

**Note 9 Support Costs**

*Please complete this note if the charity has analysed its expenses using activity categories and has support costs.*

**This year**

Support cost (examples)	Raising funds £	Space 4 £	Church £	Activity 3 £	Grand total £	Basis of allocation (Describe method)
Staff Salaries	-	99,332	10,118	-	109,449	Directly attributable costs
Expenses	-	425	1,368	-	1,793	Directly attributable costs
Office Costs	-	1,051	5,141	-	6,192	Directly attributable costs
Accommodation costs	-	-	19,179	-	19,179	Directly attributable costs
Professional Fees	-	9,097	9,081	-	18,178	Directly attributable costs
Parish Share	-	-	43,000	-	43,000	Directly attributable costs
<b>Total</b>	-	109,905	87,886	-	197,791	

**Last year**

Support cost (examples)	Raising funds £	Space 4 £	Church £	Activity 3 £	Grand total £	Basis of allocation (Describe method)
Staff Salaries	-	67,041	9,359	-	76,400	Directly attributable costs
Expenses	-	399	1,884	-	2,284	Directly attributable costs
Office Costs	-	1,509	5,599	-	7,108	Directly attributable costs
Accommodation costs	-	-	13,697	-	13,697	Directly attributable costs
Professional Fees	-	8,421	9,092	-	17,513	Directly attributable costs
Parish Share	-	-	47,000	-	47,000	Directly attributable costs
<b>Total</b>	-	77,371	86,630	-	164,002	

*Please provide details of the accounting policy adopted for the apportionment of costs between activities and any estimation techniques used to calculate their apportionment.*

**No estimation. All support costs are directly attributable to the above activities**

## Section C

## Notes to the accounts

## Note 10 Details of certain items of expenditure

## 10.1 Fees for examination of the accounts

Please provide details of the amount paid for any statutory external scrutiny of accounts and other services provided by your independent examiner. If nothing was paid please enter '0' in the appropriate box(es).

Independent examiner's fees

This year £	Last year £
1,590	-

## Section C

## Notes to the accounts

(cont)

## Note 11 Paid employees

Please complete this note if the charity has any employees.

## 11.1 Staff Costs

Salaries and wages  
Social security costs  
Pension costs (defined contribution scheme)  
Other employee benefits

	This year £	Last year £
	104,309	68,952
	1,923	10,282
	6,464	4,885
	-	-
<b>Total staff costs</b>	<b>112,696</b>	<b>84,118</b>

Please provide the total amount paid to key management personnel (includes trustees and senior management) for their services to the charity. For specific amounts paid to trustees, see Note 28.

	This year £	Last year £
	44,291	45,712

## 11.2 Average head count in the year

The parts of the charity in which the employees work

	This year Number	Last year Number
Fundraising	-	-
Charitable Activities	10	6
Governance	-	-
Other	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>

**Section C** **Notes to the accounts** **(cont)**

**Note 12** **Defined contribution pension scheme or defined benefit scheme accounted for as a defined contribution scheme.**

12.1 Please complete this note if a defined contribution pension scheme is operated.

	This year £	Last year £
Amount of contributions recognised in the SOFA as an expense	6,464	4,885

Please explain the basis for allocating the liability and expense of defined contribution pension scheme between activities and between restricted and unrestricted funds.

6464 Contribution is made for staff who are conducting charitable activity within the space 4 project which is grant funded. So this is restricted funds.	4885 Contribution is made for staff who are conducting charitable activity within the space 4 project which is grant funded. So this is restricted funds.
---	---

**Section C** **Notes to the accounts** **(cont)**

**Note 18** **Stocks**

Please complete this note if the charity holds any stock items

18.1 Please state the carrying amount of stock and work in progress analysed between activities.

	Stock		Donated goods		Work in progress
	For distribution	For resale	For distribution	For resale	
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Charitable activities:</b>					
<i>Opening</i>	-	1,432	-	-	-
<i>Added in period</i>	-	10,585	-	-	-
<i>Expensed in period</i>	-		-	-	-
<i>Impaired</i>	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Closing</i>	-	12,017	-	-	-
<b>Other trading activities:</b>					
<i>Opening</i>	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Added in period</i>	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Expensed in period</i>	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Impaired</i>	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Closing</i>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total this year</b>	-	12,017	-	-	-
<b>Total previous year</b>	-	1,432	-	-	-

**Section C** **Notes to the accounts** **(cont)**

**Note 19** **Debtors and prepayments**

*Please complete this note if the charity has any debtors or prepayments.*

**19.1 Analysis of debtors**

Prepayments and accrued income

Other debtors

**Total**

This year	Last year
£	£
6,808.5	2,388.2
416.7	-
<b>7,225.1</b>	<b>2,388.2</b>

**Section C** **Notes to the accounts** **(cont)**

**Note 20** **Creditors and accruals**

*Please complete this note if the charity has any creditors or accruals.*

**20.1 Analysis of creditors**

Accruals for grants payable

Bank loans and overdrafts

Trade creditors

Payments received on account for contracts or performance-related grants

Accruals and deferred income

Taxation and social security

Other creditors

**Total**

Amounts falling due within one year		Amounts falling due after more than one year	
This year	Last year	This year	Last year
£	£	£	£
-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-
2,797	4,288	-	-
-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-
<b>2,797</b>	<b>4,288</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

**Section C** **Notes to the accounts** **(cont)**

**Note 24** **Cash at bank and in hand**

Short term cash investments (less than 3 months maturity date)

Short term deposits

Cash at bank and on hand

Other

**Total**

This year	Last year
£	£
-	-
-	-
126,755	143,739
-	-
<b>126,755</b>	<b>143,739</b>

**Note 27 Charity funds****27.1 Details of material funds held and movements during the CURRENT reporting period**

Please give details of the movements of material individual funds in the reporting period together with a balancing figure for 'Other funds'. The 'Total' \* Key: PE - permanent endowment funds; EE - expendible endowment funds; R - restricted income funds, including special trusts, of the charity; and

Fund names	Type PE, EE R or UR *	Purpose and Restrictions	Fund balances brought forward £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains and losses £	Fund balances carried forward £
Wiliam Trust	R	Grant from Communities Foundation to support delivery of Toddler Group - restricted to salaries.	1,717		- 1,717			- 0
SCC Grant	R	Grant from Local Authority for Holiday Club provision - restricted to accommodation, product costs, expenses.	141		- 141			- 0
SCC Holiday	R	Grant from Local Authority for Holiday Club provision - restricted to accommodation, product costs, expenses.	1,939		- 1,939			0
SCC Products	R	Grant from Local Authority for provision for Foodbank /Community Foodstore - restricted to product costs.	-	7,000	- 7,000			-
Mackem	R	Grant from Community Foundation for after-school club for children and families restricted to salaries, food and activities expenses	-	4,675	- 2,425	-	-	2,250
Digital Hub	R	Grant from Local Authority for provision of an IT Hub - restricted to IT & Office equipment, ongoing IT support costs	-	9,261	- 7,806	-	-	1,454
SCC Grant 24	R	Grant from Local Authority for provision for Foodbank /Community Foodstore - restricted to product costs.	-	32,000	- 32,000	-	-	-
Links for Life	R	Grant from Local Authority to provide extended drop-in, brunch service and slowcooker courses - restricted to salaries, food and activity expenses	-	17,410	- 17,410	-	-	0
P&G	R	Grant from Community Foundation for provision for Foodbank /Community Foodstore - restricted to product costs.	-	5,000	- 4,974	-	-	26
Karbon Homes	R	Grant from local Housing Provider for provision for Foodbank /Community Foodstore - restricted to product costs.	-	1,000	-	-	-	1,000
Sir J. Knott	R	Grant from Charitable Trust Fund to provide core funding to support Space4 Project - restricted to salaries	-	10,000	- 5,020	-	-	4,980
SCC Hol. 2	R	Grant from Local Authority for holiday club provision - restricted to accommodation, product costs, expenses.	-	4,917	- 1,521	-	-	3,396
Transport	R	Provide transport to enable people to attend elderly care group - restricted to transport expenses	-	1,125	-	-	-	1,125
CTD Grant	R	Grant from Communities Together for Holiday Club provision - restricted to accommodation, product costs, expenses.	-	500	- 500	-	-	-
SCC Grant	R	Grant from Local Authority for provision for Foodbank /Community Foodstore - restricted to product costs.	-	4,799	-	-	-	4,799
cake and chat	R	Grant for support for elderly care group - restricted to food, expenses, salaries.	-	500	-	-	-	500

christmas lunch	R	Grant from Local Authority for provision for Food for Christmas Day Lunch for people who are isolated, lonely and on the margins - restricted to food supply.	-	1,149	-	224	-	-	925
Reaching Communities Fund	R	Grant from National Lottery Community Fund: Reaching Communities/Partnerships for provision of a Community Hub, Community Foodstore, Children's Project work and Community Organising - restricted to salaries, accommodation, product costs, expenses, equipment	29,539	53,420	-	82,959	-	-	-
Music Fund	R	Gift from Parishioner to support Childrens Choir - restricted to developing music with children	2,000	-	-	-	-	-	2,000
Legacy	R	Legacy from parishioner - restricted to purchasing specific item for church - planned for church tech	770	-	-	-	770	-	-
Donation for Bellringing	R	Gift from surviving members of Bellringing Group - restricted to supporting bellringing, music or missional activity.	5,308	-	-	-	-	-	5,308
Legacy	R	Legacy from parishioner - restricted to purchasing specific item for church - planned for IT Equipment	1,000	-	-	-	1,000	-	-
Legacy A jackson	R	Legacy from parishioner - restricted to provision of new Rectors Board	-	-	-	-	1,500	-	1,500
Donation for church tect	R	Gift from parishioner - restricted to purchasing church tech	-	-	-	-	625	-	625
Donation for church building	R	Donation from 'Friends' Trust - restricted to spend on church reordering	4,651	360	-	102	-	-	4,909
Fundraising for Parish Share	R	Outstanding monies from "Close the gap" fundraising restricted to enabling church to meet parish share commitment.	12,000	-	-	-	3,600	-	8,400
Church deposit	R	Historical church projects related to church building.	-	181	-	-	-	-	181
Other donations and project contribution match funding or fundraising	R	Donations and project contribution match funding or fundraising. Restricted to use on Space 4 Project	13,230	22,753	-	19,476	-	-	16,507
All other funds	U	Unrestricted funds	70,976	115,493	-	106,398	3,245	-	83,316
Other funds	N/a	N/a	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Funds</b>			<b>143,271</b>	<b>291,542</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>291,612</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>143,201</b>

**Section C** **Notes to the accounts** (cont)

**Note 27** **Charity funds (cont)**

**27.2 Details of material funds held and movements during the PREVIOUS reporting period**

Please give details of the movements of material individual funds in the reporting period together with a balancing figure for 'Other funds'. The 'Total funds' figure below should reconcile to 'Total funds' in the balance sheet.

\* Key: PE - permanent endowment funds; EE - expendible endowment funds; R - restricted income funds, including special trusts, of the charity; and U - unrestricted funds

Fund names	Type PE, EE R or UR *	Purpose and Restrictions	Fund balances brought forward £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains and losses £	Fund balances carried forward £
Gentoo (Empower)	R	Food for food bank	2,000	-	2,000	-	-	-
Warm Spaces Part 2	R	Utilities costs	-	5,000	5,000	-	-	-
William Trust	R	Salaries	4,261	-	2,544	-	-	1,717
SCC Grant	R	Accommodation, product costs, expenses	4,855	1,028	5,742	-	-	141
SCC Holiday	R	Accommodation, product costs, expenses	-	4,388	2,449	-	-	1,939
Reaching Communities Fund	R	All Space 4 operations	-	92,480	62,941	-	-	29,539
Music Fund	R	Childrens Choir	2,000	-	-	-	-	2,000
Legacy	R	New Rectors Board	770	-	-	-	-	770
Donation for Bellringing	R	Bellringing	5,308	-	-	-	-	5,308
Legacy	R	IT Equipment	1,000	-	-	-	-	1,000
Donation for church building	R	Reordering of church	4,651	-	-	-	-	4,651
Fundraising for Parish Share	R	Restricted "Close the gap" fundraising	12,000	-	-	-	-	12,000
contribution match funding or	R	Space 4 Project	64,347	31,518	82,636	-	-	13,229
All other funds	U	Unrestricted funds	70,517	107,827	107,367	-	-	70,977
<b>Other funds</b>	<b>N/a</b>	<b>N/a</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>			<b>171,709</b>	<b>242,241</b>	<b>270,679</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>143,270</b>

## Note 27 Charity funds (cont)

## 27.3 Transfers between funds

This year

	Reason for transfer and where endowment is converted to income, legal power for its conversion	Amount
Between unrestricted and restricted funds	Restriction removed by doner and passed to unrestricted donation at project end	3245

## Note 28 Transactions with trustees and related parties

If the charity has any transactions with related parties (other than the trustee expenses explained in guidance notes) details of such transactions should be provided in this note. If there are no transactions to report, please enter "True" in the box or "False" if there are transactions to report.

## 28.1 Trustee remuneration and benefits

This year

None of the trustees have been paid any remuneration or received any other benefits from an employment with their charity or a related entity (True or False)

FALSE

In the period the charity has paid trustees remuneration and benefits. Please give the amount of, and legal authority for, any remuneration or other benefits paid to a trustee by the charity or any institution or company connected with it.

Name of trustee	Legal authority (eg order, governing document)	Amounts paid or benefit value				
		Remuneration	Pension contribution	Redundancy	Other	TOTAL
		£	£	£	£	£
Jade T Mason	Governing Document	11,462	625	-	-	12,087
Margaret Lee	Governing Document	705				705
George Peebles	Governing Document	2,240				2,240
David Turnbull	Governing Document	2,738				2,738

Please give details of why remuneration or other employment benefits were paid.

Jade T Mason receives a salary for work provided to the charity completely distinct from her role as trustee,  
Margaret Lee receives payment for occasional services to the charity as a sessional worker, completely distinct from her role as trustee,  
David Turnbull and George Peebles receive payment for occasional services to the charity as a sessional worker, completely distinct from their role as trustee.

Last year

None of the trustees have been paid any remuneration or received any other benefits from an employment with their charity or a related entity (True or False)

FALSE

In the period the charity has paid trustees remuneration and benefits. Please give the amount of, and legal authority for, any remuneration or other benefits paid to a trustee by the charity or any institution or company connected with it.

Name of trustee	Legal authority (eg order, governing document)	Amounts paid or benefit value				
		Remuneration	Pension contribution	Redundancy	Other	TOTAL
		£	£		£	£

<b>Jade T Mason</b>	Governing Document	18,637	1,644			<b>20,281</b>
<b>Margaret Lee</b>	Governing Document	2,042				<b>2,042</b>
<b>George Peebles</b>	Governing Document	2,745				<b>2,745</b>
<b>David Turnbull</b>	Governing Document	3,013	-	-	-	<b>3,013</b>

*Please give details of why remuneration or other employment benefits were paid.*

Jade T Mason receives a salary for work provided to the charity completely distinct from her role as trustee,  
Margaret Lee receives payment for occasional services to the charity as a sessional worker, completely distinct from her role as trustee,  
David Turnbull and George Peebles receive payment for occasional services to the charity as a sessional worker, completely distinct from their role as trustee.

## 28.2 Trustees' expenses

*If the charity has paid trustees expenses for fulfilling their duties, details of such transactions should be provided in this note. If there are no transactions to report, please enter "True" in the box below. If there are transactions to report, please enter "False".*

No trustee expenses have been incurred (True or False)

**FALSE**

Type of expenses reimbursed	This year	Last year
	£	£
Crafts and activity consumables	638	1,756
Subsistence & Travel	1,508	1,639
Catering Expenses	185	136
Recruitment		95
Training	-	32
Licenses	187	91
Books	132	115
Music	89	137
Stationary and office supplies	76	154
Equipment	139	2,443
Repairs and Maintenance	20	63
Stock Costs for Food store	15,729	9,657
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18,704</b>	<b>6,661</b>

Please provide the number of trustees reimbursed for expenses or who had expenses paid by the charity

**9**

**7**

**6.2 ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS  
HOUGHTON LE SPRING: PAROCHIAL CHURCH  
COUNCIL ANNUAL STATEMENT  
OF ACCOUNTS**

**1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2024**

**REGISTERED CHARITY NO 1135095**

PCC Treasurer  
Mrs Sue Bradley

External Examiner  
TTR Barnes  
Chartered Accountants

St Michael & All Angels Church  
Church Street  
Houghton le Spring  
DH4 4DN

St Michael and All Angels, Houghton le Spring  
Treasurer's Annual Report for Year 1 January – 31 December 2024

Overall Bank Balance

The end of year Overall PCC and Next 900 Bank Accounts Balance at 31 December 2024 breakdown and comparison to previous years is detailed below:-

	December 2022	December 2023	December 2024
PCC - Unrestricted	£31,869.61	£23,995.19	£31,893.70
PCC – Restricted	£21,078.00	£21,078.00	£17,833.00
TOTAL	£52,947.61	£45,073.19	£49,726.70
Next 900 Account	£ 4,324.61	£4,650.61	£4,908.61
Overall Total	£57,272.22	£49,723.80	£54,635.31
CBF Legacies	£ 166.27	£171.60	£180.70

Assets

The PCC hold a log of all material assets and this report covers only the monetary assets.

Creditor and Debtors

Debtors as at 31 December 2024 - £478

Creditors as at 31 December 2024 - £195.75

Receipts and Payments for 2024 in comparison to previous years.

	December 2022	December 2023	December 2024
Receipts	£118,057	£97,299	£107,857
Payments	£104,903	£105,173	£103,204

An overview breakdown of some of the main headings of Receipts and Payments as a comparison to previous two years is detailed below:-

Receipts	December 2022	December 2023	December 2024
Planned Giving	£44,719	£43,458	£45,889
Gift Aid Recovered	£11,578	£11,570	£13,089
Collections	£10,228	£9,296	£ 9,644
Donations	£ 9,261	£4,954	£10,031
Other Giving	£ 534	£ 470	£ 2,829
Parish Magazine Sales	£ 1,783	£1,713	£ 1,661
Parish Magazine Adverts	£ 1,013	£ 810	£ 518
PCC Fees	£ 9,569	£7,074	£ 5,405
Fundraising	£ 5,810	£5,535	£10,698
Transfer from Restricted	£ 0	£ 0	£ 5,370

Our Planned Giving income in 2024 increased by £2,431. This is as a result of the successful Stewardship Campaign in September & October 2024:-

Regular Planned Givers	2022	2023	2024
Parish Giving Scheme	40	37	36
Standing Order	30	27	26
Stewardship Envelope	26	25	25
<b>Total Regular Givers</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>87</b>

Collections from our Church Services, Funerals, Weddings, Baptisms and Other Events has remained stable with a small increase of £348 from previous year

Donations – In addition to giving through Church Boxes, one-off donations remembering loved ones and during the Autumn Stewardship campaign, together with donations from The Gilpin Singers contributed to the increase of £7435 from the previous year.

Parish Magazine Sales have been reasonably consistent over the last year, with a small reduction in income of £52. Our pricing structure for 2024 remained at (£6 per annum for an email version and £1 per copy for the printed version or £10 instead of £12 for a full year). Thank you to all involved in the production of the Magazine especially Editor Malcolm Foster, Philippa Elsey and the magazine distributors.

Parish Magazine Advertising, has reduced steadily over the last few years and has again reduced in 2024 by £292. This an area that will require review during 2025.

PCC Fees – 22 Funerals (18 Church, 4 Crematorium/Burial Only) 3 Burial of Ashes, 1 Memorial Service and 1 Wedding took place in 2024. There was a significant decrease in the number of Funerals and Weddings as compared to 2023 - (34 Funerals – 26 Church, 8 Crematorium) and also in Weddings 5 held in 2023.

Fundraising got underway in January with the Parish Party, Coffee Mornings were held in March and June, also in June we enjoyed an Italian themed evening.

Over the Summer there was a concert by the Gilpin Singers in July and the annual Summer Concert in August.

At the beginning of October saw the start of two weeks of Houghton Feast celebrations a Feast Saturday coffee morning and lunches, Feast Sunday Civic Service followed by Community Lunch. Concerts held in church by Houghton Brass Band and Gilpin Singers and a Ceilidh evening ended a very successful Houghton Feast. At the end of November, we held the annual Christmas Fayre.

Thank you to all involved in arranging and making these events happen and to those who contributed and participated. The Bonus Ball raised £1327 during 2024 and continues to run smoothly. Thank you to Brian Scott for organising and to all who take part.

Payments	December 2022	December 2023	December 2024
Parish Share	£48,000	£47,000	£43,000
Clergy & Staffing	£ 9,448	£11,637	£12,071
Repairs & Redecoration	£ 1,086	£1,593	£ 2,575
Church Running	£21,866	£27,452	£31,700
Parish Magazine Costs	£ 1,020	£1,020	£ 1,020
Costs of Generating Funds	£18,063	£11,280	£ 7,960
Transfer to Restricted	£ 6,308	£ 0	£ 2,215

We paid £43,000 for our Parish Share in 2024, which met our pledge for the year.

Clergy and Staffing costs are higher this year due to increase in Salary and Retained payments in line with the Real Living wage.

Repairs and Redecoration costs –

Church Running – includes Utilities, Insurance, Maintenance and Servicing, Organ/Choir, Photocopying, Technology, Upkeep of Services and HRDept Services. Utility contracts saw considerable price increases in 2024 together with other annual increases resulted in increased spending of £4,248

Costs of generating Funds – covers Fees paid out for Funerals, Weddings, Burial of Ashes and costs of activities and events in Church.

## Restricted Budget Breakdown

### Balance carried forward from 2023

Organ / Music Fund	£ 2,000
Legacy	£ 770
Parish Share Contingency	£ 12,000
Bellringing Donation	£ 5,308
Legacy	£ 1,000
Income Transfer 2024	£ 2,125
Payment Transfer 2024	£ 5,370
Total as at 31 Dec 2024	£ 17,833

### Next 900 Account

Balance carried forward from 2023	£4,650.61
Income in 2024	£ 360.00
Charges in 2024	£ -102.00
Total Balance	£4,908.61

*(Please see attached detailed Accruals Accounts for Year ended 31 December 2024)*

## **End of Year Summary**

Overall, for the year we ended with an excess of receipts over payments of £4,654 plus £3,245 (transfer to Unrestricted) totalling £7,899. We have been able to achieve reasonable Unrestricted Reserves of £31,894 to start 2025. We will continue to carefully manage budgets and review at monthly PCC meetings.

We had a very successful Stewardship campaign with both regular givers increasing their donation and a number of generous one-off donations. However, we must highlight that overall at the end of 2024 the number of regular givers has decreased.

Our Guided Pledge from the Diocese for 2025 is £45,150. At September 2024 PCC we agreed to pay a Parish Share of £30,000 in 2025. The PCC also agreed to designate £1,000 per month towards meeting the full Parish Share amount. The PCC will review on a quarterly basis to determine if the extra designated amount should be paid.

In 2024, in addition to regular maintenance and servicing, repairs were carried out to the Boiler / Heating controls. The Projector was replaced and the screen mechanism repaired scaffolding was required to undertake this work. Thank you to Tim Cullingworth for carrying out this work.

A survey undertaken in November 2023 identified work required on our Stained Glass Windows. An estimate for the most urgent work (Phase 1) has been received. Work was due to be carried out in the Autumn of 2024, however this has now been rescheduled for March 2025. The Friends of Houghton Church have very kindly agreed to pay for this work. Further work on the Windows (Phase 2) will need to be scheduled over the next few years. Costings for this work will be undertaken when a timetable is agreed. Funding sources for Phase 2 to be investigated.

The Quinquennial survey was undertaken in October / November 2024 by the Church Architect, Michael Atkinson. The report is due to be received in early 2025. One particular problem regarding which we are awaiting advice from the Survey is the plaster flaking from the walls and dampness, particularly in the North Transept.

Thank you to all for your help, support and generosity throughout the year.

Thank you to TTR Barnes Chartered Accountants, for Examining our Accounts for 2024.

***Sue Bradley***  
***PCC Treasurer***

**St Michael & All Angels Houghton-le-Spring**  
**Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December**  
**Statement of Financial Activities**

**2024**

	Note	Unrestricted Fund	Unrestricted Designated Fund	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
		£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>							
<b>Voluntary receipts:</b>							
Planned giving		45,889	-	360	-	46,249	43,886
Collections		9,644	-	-	-	9,644	9,296
Gift Aid recovered		13,089	-	-	-	13,089	11,570
All other giving/voluntary	2	12,860	-	-	-	12,860	5,425
		<b>81,482</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>81,842</b>	<b>70,177</b>
<b>Activities for generating funds</b>	3	<b>11,216</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>11,216</b>	<b>6,345</b>
<b>Investment income</b>	4	<b>86</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>125</b>
<b>Church activities:</b>							
Income from trading	5	2,424	-	-	-	2,424	3,341
Asset sales	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other receipts	7	12,649	-	-	-	12,649	17,739
		<b>15,073</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>15,073</b>	<b>21,080</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>		<b>107,857</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>108,217</b>	<b>97,727</b>
<b>Payments</b>							
<b>Church activities:</b>							
Parish share		43,000	-	-	-	43,000	47,000
Clergy and staffing costs	8	12,071	-	-	-	12,071	11,637
Church running expenses	9	31,700	-	-	-	31,700	27,452
Hall running costs	10	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mission giving and donations	11	4,620	-	-	-	4,620	4,608
Costs of trading	12	1,278	-	-	-	1,278	1,605
Repairs and redecorations	13	2,575	-	-	-	2,575	1,593
Asset purchases	14	-	-	-	-	-	-
		<b>95,243</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>95,243</b>	<b>93,895</b>
<b>Cost of generating funds</b>	15	<b>7,960</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8,062</b>	<b>11,382</b>
<b>Governance costs</b>	16	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Other Outgoing Resources costs</b>	16	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>		<b>103,204</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>103,306</b>	<b>105,277</b>
<b>Excess of receipts over payments</b>		<b>4,654</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,912</b>	<b>(7,550)</b>
Transfers between funds		3,245	-	(1,475)	-	1,770	
		<b>7,899</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(1,217)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6,682</b>	<b>(7,550)</b>
Sale/(purchase) of investments		-	-	-	-	-	-
Cash at bank and in hand at 1 Jan		23,995	-	25,729	-	49,724	57,272
Cash at bank and in hand at 31 Dec		<b>31,894</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>24,512</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>56,405</b>	<b>49,724</b>

**St Michael & All Angels Houghton-le-Spring**  
**Financial Statements for the year ending 31st December 2024**  
**Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the year**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Unrestricted Designated Fund	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
		£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Cash funds</b>							
Bank current account		31,894	-	22,742	-	54,635	43,693
CBF deposit fund				181		181	172
						-	-
						-	-
Other cash funds						-	-
		<b>31,894</b>		<b>22,922</b>	-	<b>54,816</b>	<b>43,865</b>
<b>Other monetary assets</b>							
Income tax recoverable						-	-
						-	-
		-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Investment assets</b>							
Investment Fund Shares at market value						-	-
						-	-
						-	-
						-	-
		-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Assets retained for Church use</b>							
						-	-
						-	-
						-	-
						-	-
		-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Liabilities</b>							
						-	-
						-	-
						-	-
						-	-
		-	-	-	-	-	-

## Further Analysis of Income and Expenditure

	Note	Unrestricted Fund	Unrestricted Designated Fund	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
		£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>							
<b>All other giving/voluntary receipts:</b> 2							
Other regular gifts		1,641	-	-	-	1,641	1,038
Donations, appeals, etc		10,031	-	-	-	10,031	4,386
Legacies		1,187	-	-	-	1,187	-
Recurring grants		-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-recurring one-off grants		-	-	-	-	-	-
Other funds generated		-	-	-	-	-	-
		<b>12,860</b>	-	-	-	<b>12,860</b>	<b>5,424</b>
<b>Activities for generating funds:</b> 3							
Bookstall sales - fund raising		-	-	-	-	-	-
Magazine income - advertising		518	-	-	-	518	810
Fundraising Activities & Events		10,698	-	-	-	10,698	5,535
		<b>11,216</b>	-	-	-	<b>11,216</b>	<b>6,345</b>
<b>Investment Income:</b> 4							
Dividends		-	-	-	-	-	-
Trust fund interest		-	-	-	-	-	-
Bank and building society interest		86	-	-	-	86	125
Rent from lands or buildings		-	-	-	-	-	-
Rent from Masts and other property		-	-	-	-	-	-
		<b>86</b>	-	-	-	<b>86</b>	<b>125</b>
<b>Income from Trading:</b> 5							
Bookstall sales - trading		-	-	-	-	-	-
Church hall lettings - trading		-	-	-	-	-	-
Parish magazine sales		1,661	-	-	-	1,661	1,713
Use of photocopier		-	-	-	-	-	-
Other income		763	-	-	-	763	1,627
		<b>2,424</b>	-	-	-	<b>2,424</b>	<b>3,340</b>
<b>Asset sales:</b> 6							
Sales of fixed assets		-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Other receipts:</b> 7							
PCC Fees for weddings and funerals		5,405	-	-	-	5,405	7,074
Assigned Fees for weddings and funerals		7,244	-	-	-	7,244	10,665
Insurance claims		-	-	-	-	-	-
Surplus - sales of fixed assets		-	-	-	-	-	-
Sundry income for Mission		-	-	-	-	-	-
Sundry income		-	-	-	-	-	-
		<b>12,649</b>	-	-	-	<b>12,649</b>	<b>17,739</b>

**Payments****Church activities:**

Missionary giving and donations	11	4,620	-	-	-	4,620	4,608
Clergy and Staffing costs	8	12,071	-	-	-	12,071	11,637
Church running costs	9	18,032	-	-	-	18,032	18,682
Church utility costs	9	13,667	-	-	-	13,667	8,770
Hall running costs	10	-	-	-	-	-	-
Costs of trading	12	1,278	-	-	-	1,278	1,605
		<b>49,668</b>	-	-	-	<b>49,668</b>	<b>45,301</b>

**Major repairs and building works: 13**

Church major repairs		2,575	-	-	-	2,575	1,593
Hall + major repairs		-	-	-	-	-	-
New building costs		-	-	-	-	-	-
		<b>2,575</b>	-	-	-	<b>2,575</b>	<b>1,593</b>

**Asset purchases: 14**

Purchase of fixed assets		-	-	-	-	-	-
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**Cost of generating voluntary income: 15**

Costs of Church Activities & Events		741	-	-	-	741	499
Fees paid out for weddings and other services		6,606	-	-	-	6,606	10,120
Investment management costs		613	-	102	-	715	762
Bookstall costs		-	-	-	-	-	-
		<b>7,960</b>	-	<b>102</b>	-	<b>8,062</b>	<b>11,382</b>

**Governance costs: 16**

Examination/audit fee		-	-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-	-

**Other Outgoing Resources:**

Other Outgoing Resources:		-	-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-	-

*John Barron*  
*B. Bradley*

JOHN BARRON 17/4/25  
Susan Bradley 17/04/2025

## **Public benefit**

The members have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on their legal duty on public benefit and are satisfied that the charitable company delivers public benefit in terms of the services it provides within the community, and due regard is paid to the guidance on public benefit when reviewing the aims and objectives of the Church and Space 4 community project. aims and objectives and when deciding what new projects the charitable company should undertake.

## **Reserves Policy**

To maintain general/unrestricted reserves at a level which will cover 3 months operational costs

## **Risk management**

The members have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the Church is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error. The Standing Committee has conducted its own review of the major risks to which the church is exposed and systems have been established to minimise those risks. External risks relate to the generation of future income and funding and some grant funding has been secured with NLCF and Sunderland City Council.

Internal risks are minimised by the implementation of procedures for authorisation of all transactions and events.

**6.3 ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS  
HOUGHTON LE SPRING: SPACE4  
HOUGHTON LE SPRING - ANNUAL STATEMENT  
OF ACCOUNTS**

**1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2024**

**REGISTERED CHARITY NO 1135095**

**Accounts Prepared by  
Social Enterprise Acumen**

**External Examiner  
TTR Barnes  
Chartered Accountants**

**Space4 Community Project  
76 Newbottle Street  
Houghton le Spring  
DH4 4GB**

# Space4 – Statement of Accounts as at 31 December 2024

Charity Name		No (if any)			
Space 4					
Statement of Financial Activities					
For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date		
	01/01/2024		31/12/2024		
Section A Receipts and payments					
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Voluntary Income	8,076	164,234		172,309	132,435
Income from Trading and Activities		11,251		11,251	11,161
Investment Income		23		23	
Other				-	
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>8,076</b>	<b>175,508</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>183,584</b>	<b>143,596</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
Asset Sales	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>8,076</b>	<b>175,508</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>183,584</b>	<b>143,596</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Cost of Generating Income				-	
Charitable activities	5,169	164,935		170,104	142,790
Facilities Costs		18,745		18,745	20,435
Other				-	
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>5,169</b>	<b>183,680</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>188,849</b>	<b>163,225</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
Asset purchases	-	-	-	-	
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>5,169</b>	<b>183,680</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>188,849</b>	<b>163,225</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>2,907</b>	<b>- 8,172</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>- 5,266</b>	<b>- 19,628</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>			-	-	-
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>48,234</b>	<b>46,566</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>94,800</b>	<b>114,429</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>51,140</b>	<b>38,394</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>89,535</b>	<b>94,801</b>

## Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Bank Account 33254356	51,139	20,456	-
	PayPal Statement		311	-
	PettyCash		32	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>51,139</b>	<b>20,799</b>	<b>-</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	Agreement Error	Agreement Error	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
	Details			
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>	Debitors	-	6,330	-
	Stock	-	12,017	-
	Prepayment	-	417	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>	Creditors	Restricted	2,601	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

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

Signature

Print Name

Date of approval

S Bradley  
John Burn

S Bradley  
John Burn

17/04/2025  
17/04/2025

## **Space4: Financial Commentary - 31 December 2024**

Our Space 4 project has again had a successful year, providing much needed support to those more vulnerable in our community, but also providing a welcome venue for community gatherings and activities, and encouraging much needed social interaction. Funding has been secured for the Community Foodstore which provides welcome relief to many families. Funding and collaborative support has also been provided to create a Digital Hub at the center, providing internet connectivity to those who may have limited access at home.

In the year we achieved a deficit of £5,266 and at the end of the year restricted reserves were £38,394 and unrestricted reserves were £51,140.

### **Overall Receipts of £183,584 compared to £143,596 last year.**

1. A total of £175,508 of receipts was restricted and £8,076 unrestricted.
2. Grant funding of £171,508 was received which was made up of:
  - a. £53,420 - National Lottery Community Fund: Reaching Communities/Partnerships
  - b. £118,088 - Grants Other
3. Donations of £5997.93 were received with a further £4,200 coming from our PCC main funds, Gift Aid produced income of £1374.
4. Sales of produce generated income of £11783.12, an additional £0 from building lettings and a further £349.08 was raised through fundraising.

### **Overall Payments of £188,849 compared to £163,225 last year.**

1. Staff salaries totaled £94567.82 with sessional worker fees totaling £3721.10.
2. Building rents were £13369.64 with £4549.13 costs for utilities and overheads.
3. Product costs for food distributed were £51667.74.
4. A total of £0 was spent on developing our buildings and £8581.56 on equipment.
5. Staff and volunteer expenses were £4535.70 with a further £1670.44 spent on office costs and training.
6. Professional fees of £9097.16 were spent for bookkeeping, accountancy, payroll, HR and marketing.

Our balance at the beginning of the year was £94,801 and at the end of the year £89,535: (£38,394 restricted, £51,140 unrestricted).

## 7. Report on Church buildings and fabric

The 2019 Quinquennial Survey revealed some minor works that required action. These were all done during 2020 and 2021. Another requirement was a survey and report upon the Church Windows. We commissioned Iona Glass to carry out a survey and that was done in 2023. The report was received in early 2024. Various matters were highlighted. After receiving approval for funding from the friends of Houghton Church, Iona Glass were instructed to start work upon the urgent issues. During this time they had been on site to carry out minor repairs. Work is scheduled to begin in 2025.

These are the works done in 2024:

In February both the fire alarm and the burglar alarm were serviced; the burglar alarm was serviced by our new contractor as part of the regular maintenance.

After receiving a quotation in May from an approved roofing company, they attended in June to re-affix the substitute lead flashing that had been damaged by thieves. Whilst upon site the gutters were cleared and an inspection of the roofs and guttering was carried out.

In July the Church Clock was serviced, and found to be in good order. This is paid for by Sunderland Council.

During the summer months the Church heating is turned off to save money and in September the boilers were serviced as part of their annual maintenance by the original installers. It was noted that the Church heating was not working. The company arranged to send one of their heating engineers to investigate. It was discovered that the two circuit boards associated with the Heritage Centre and Mezzanine room underfloor heating had burned out. The engineers declared that these boards were now obsolete but they would investigate further and come back to me [they have not done so].

Having heard nothing from them, I contacted the heating engineer who had designed the heating circuits for the reordering. He agreed to come out and examine the problem. Having been shown the burned-out circuit boards, he could offer no solution to the underfloor heating in those areas, but asked to go into the "boiler house" and examine the control panel. Once the panel door had been opened, he found a switch that had tripped. Resetting that switch restored the Church heating. He also replaced some parts of the control panel.

In November Michael Atkinson, our new Church Architect, came to begin the Quinquennial [five yearly] Survey. As part of the survey the tower and all the roofs are examined. Our Church neighbour, Alex Scullion, had bought a new drone and wanted to see how well it worked. He offered to survey the Church roofs and tower stonework. He gave me a computer memory stick with this information on it. We plugged it into a laptop computer and the Architect, David Turnbull and myself watched the drone flight. The Architect took the memory stick away, but I have it saved the information on my computer. The Architect returned later and he and David went up the tower and carried out a physical inspection.

We await the Quinquennial Survey which is expected in January 2025.

***Alastair Bradley***  
***Church Warden***

## **8. Report on Proceedings of the Deanery Synod**

There have been four Deanery Synod meetings since the last Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

The first was held on the 28th May 2024 at Holy Trinity Church, Usworth and chaired by Rev. John Lintern, Area Dean. The Rev. Paul Childs, Parish Giving Advisor, gave a presentation on behalf of the Generous Giving Team He stated that when thinking about giving, the acronym MINT is useful:

- 1 Mechanism- making it easy to give by contactless, online and QR code.
- 2 Impact- Tell stories linking our giving to the impact their giving would have.
- 3 Need- Explain the need not just for the Church but the community
- 4 Trust- Explain how the money will be spent and spent wisely.

Elections to the Diocesan Synod - Four places in the House of Clergy and five in the House of Laity were available. Nominations to be returned to Andrew Cresswell, Deanery Returning Officer, by 4th. June 2024. The Rev. Catherine Walton and Rev. Nick Barr-Hamilton were elected to the House of Clergy. Lucy Barr-Hamilton, Alex Nelson, Simon Wilkinson and Maureen Boettcher were elected to the House of Laity.

It was reported that interviews would be held for the vacant incumbent post at St. John's Birtley. Meetings were ongoing regarding the future ministry at St. Matthew's, Newbottle.

Vacancy of See - Following consultations the Crown Nominations Committee (CNC) would formulate a role description in June/July 2024 with an anticipated appointment in January 2025.

The second Deanery Synod meeting was held at St. Andrew's Church Chiltern Moor on the 17th. July 2024 and Chaired by the Area Dean, Rev. John Lintern.

Beth Miller, Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor spoke about training and the various ways to access it. There are three training levels: Basic (all Volunteers), Foundation (PCC members, children and youth helpers) and Leadership (those with a licence, churchwardens, those ordained and Authorised Pastoral Assistants [APA's]). Details on the diocesan website. DBS checks - parishes should have access to Access Personal Checking Services (APCS) who do checks for the diocese.

Vacancies - An interview was undertaken for the vacant post for St. John The Evangelist church at Birtley (with Lamesley) but no appointment was made. The Rev. Teresa Walton was appointed to the vacant post at Holy Trinity, Washington.

The third Synod meeting was held at Holy Trinity Church, Pelton on the 6th November 2024 and Chaired by the Rev. John Lintern.

All new building work at St. George's, Fatfield, was reported as complete. The Rev. John welcomed the Rev. Teresa Walton, the new incumbent at Holy Trinity, Washington, and noted the recent licensing of the Rev. Gav. Rushton as vicar at Oxclose church.

Current Vacancies and appointments - There is to be a joint appointment at St. John The Evangelist, Birtley and St. Andrew's, Lamesely. Their respective PCC's to complete their profiles.

St. John The Evangelist to move into the Gateshead West Deanery. The vacancy will be re-advertised after Christmas.

At St. Matthew's, Newbottle, things are moving in terms of new relationships with other churches and services are well covered. Catherine Britcliffe to be licensed as Associate Priest, St. Andrew's, Chilton Moor on the 11th November 2024 and Hilary Avent has been licensed as Associate Priest at St. Michael and All Angels, Easington Lane, St. Nicholas Parish Centre, Hetton-le-Hole and Eppleton.

Parishes were asked to report on parish positives and challenges. Even though challenges seemed overwhelming with smaller congregations since covid, less funerals and weddings all resulting in lower income, there were positives. The Rev. Julie Wing, Rector at Holy Trinity and St. Michael's, Usworth stated that the congregation had steadily grown and have announced a new project to bring a picture of the Madonna and Child in Howarth to Sulgrave.

Our Rector gave an upbeat report on our Space 4 project and all the community projects emanating from the projects. He stated that there was a 6 week season of invitation from September to October where we invited people from the wider community to come to Church starting with Back to Church Sunday In September going through to Harvest Festival in October.

John Estall reported on Christ Church, Lumley, St. Andrew's, Chiltern Moor, St. Cuthbert's East Rainton and St. Mary's West Rainton. New people are joining all four congregations although not enough to compensate for those leaving. The new Blue Christmas service and Open the Book are going well. A new Youth group has inspired members to ask difficult questions showing conviction that people are hungry to know God.

St. Michael and All Angels, Hetton Lyons - Rev. Sarah Quinn, Curate, gave a report. Services are growing, especially amongst children. A new all age service for Harvest was well attended and incorporated learning into services i.e. Why do we do this the way we do? Collects, intercessions etc..

Holy Trinity Church, Pelton/West Pelton - Rev. John Lintern, reported that they have Open the Book in four schools twice each half term and are doing assemblies, teaching through quizzes and games. Starting up prayer stations in schools.

The fourth Synod meeting took place at St. Michael's, Sulgrave. The meeting was chaired by the Rev. John Lintern, Area Dean. A talk was given by Claire Estall and colleagues from Communities Together Durham. Members of Synod also took part in a participatory exercise about benefits. John Lintern gave an update of the current situation regarding the appointment of the new Bishop of Durham. The next short listing will take place on the 3rd September with interviews set for the 9th and 10th December.

### **Deanery Synod representatives**

**David Hann, Sue Elsey, Dian Scott**

## **9. Safeguarding Report**

We continue to operate to the values and principles set out in the Parish Safeguarding Policy which was readopted by the PCC in February 2025. DBS checks are up to date for salaried staff and church officers, and a programme of renewal is in place for all existing volunteers and staff. The safeguarding training programme for PCC members, community outreach programmes and church activities continues. Training undertaken is recorded and monitored.

Using the online Safeguarding Dashboard, the Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) has undertaken a review of safeguarding practices and procedures in line with the parish safeguarding policy, and areas for development are identified in the Dashboard safeguarding action plan.

Several safeguarding issues / incidents have been reported in the last year. In line with the parish safeguarding policy, all issues are recorded by appropriate officers and are reviewed and monitored accordingly by the Church and the Diocese. Where appropriate, actions are put in place and these are reviewed and regularly updated in the monthly safeguarding meetings held between the Rector, PSO and Community Project Manager.

***Ali Young,***  
***Parish Safeguarding Office***

# 10. REPORTS ON OUR ACTIVITY IN THE YEAR ENDING 31<sup>st</sup> DEC 2024

## 10.1 REPORTS FOR CHURCH GROUPS

### Churchwardens' Report

“Churchwardens are the Bishop’s lay officers, responsible directly to him/her for the life and work of the church in the parish. Their office is therefore both a privilege and a responsibility.”

This past year as usual has been a busy year! It felt that no sooner had we enjoyed the Parish Party than Lent was upon us followed by Easter. As usual “we” are a very busy Church with a coffee morning in March, which leads us into Palm Sunday and Holy Week.

After Easter, we have Church open days, and once again a big thank you goes to all our volunteers who help keep the building open and welcome visitors during these times!

As an aside I have looked at what other Churches reported and some were welcoming congregations back after lockdown, showing we were leading the field, and others were reporting storm damage, and thankfully we were unaffected.

As our year rolls on, there was the “Friends” week, where other events were enjoyed in Church, but there will be a full report elsewhere.

In June the roofers carried out minor repairs (one where our substitute lead flashing had been ripped off), re-attached other flashing and cleared some gutters, coming back the next day with longer ladders to finish the job! Thankfully this work did NOT require a Faculty from the Diocesan Secretary!

We marked the King’s Birthday, and then held a coffee morning on the 22nd June. Later that month we held an “Italian” evening, with entertainment provided by C-Saw group lead by Stuart Clappison, with food produced by the culinary skills of Messrs. Hardy and Turnbull and a pleasant evening was enjoyed by all.

July and August are traditionally quiet times socially in our Church when we enjoy holidays.

We resumed activities in September, when Heritage open day occurs. Sadly over the many years this has run, its appeal has declined, although there were more visitors than usual.

Then in October we enjoy the whirlwind of Houghton Feast! We had a coffee morning with stalls on Saturday, the first full day, and on Sunday we hosted the Civic Service followed by the Civic Lunch and Community Hymns in the evening. During the week there was a concert by Houghton Brass on Thursday, a Ceilidh with licensed bar on Friday, and a concert by the Gilpin Singers on Saturday. On Sunday, we resumed our usual pattern of worship.

During the summer the heating in Church was not working. At first it was thought that mice had gnawed through a cable, but after consulting heating engineers who discovered burned out circuit boards, it was established that the fault was a micro switch which had tripped in the main panel in the “Boiler Room”. This was discovered and rectified by the heating engineer who had originally designed the system. So heat was gradually reintroduced into Church.

In November, as usual, we held our Fireworks display, with Space4 catering in the Kepier Hall. The whole event went with a “BANG” and was financially successful. Then bringing us down to earth we held our Remembrance Day service in Church assisted by Houghton Brass. The weather stayed dry and a large crowd marked the occasion in The Broadway.

Next came our very successful Christmas Fayre, with coffee and cakes, stalls and a visit from Santa!! When everything was tidied away our Christmas tree was put up, welcoming visitors during Advent. There were many Carol services with local schools and uniformed organisations held during this time.

Leading up to Christmas we had our Children’s Nativity, then our Carol Concert, followed by Midnight Mass, and Eucharist the next day at 10 o’clock!

### Thank You’s

To the dedicated people who act as sides people throughout the year, turning up on time and welcoming worshippers with a smile and helping the smooth running of our services. We always need more people to act in this important role. If you feel you can help, please let any of the wardens know and we’ll tell you what the job entails and fit you in with an experienced sides person.

We all owe a great deal of appreciation to everyone who has contributed to the events of the past year and our report wouldn’t be complete without a list of thanks: George Peebles our Director of Music, Andy Slater, our quiet and much appreciated deputy organist, and Stuart Clappison who provides music on the guitar. To Angela Slater our PCC Secretary, much of whose excellent work goes unseen, as does that of our Treasurer, Sue Bradley. To Philippa Elsey, who runs our Church Office and performs many other tasks to keep things running smoothly. To David Turnbull and Paul Armour, our Verger and Assistant Verger. To the excellent teams of willing helpers who keep the church clean, arrange the flowers and provide music for our services, the Next 900 team, those providing coffee and refreshments week by week, the team working with the Creche and Young Church, the Welcomers, Lay Readers, Pastoral Assistants, the stalwarts of our Church Choir...the list goes on. Apologies if we’ve missed some...but to all, many thanks.

Sincerely we could not have managed without you. Thank you.

***Rita, Alastair, Simon and Brian***

## **Light**

The bereavement group 'Light' continues to meet on the 1st Tuesday of every month at 1.15 in Space4. Our numbers have held well with some long-term clients and some newly bereaved clients. We typically have 6-8 members, sometimes more sometimes less, often limited by childminding duties.

The session may be guided by story or may just be free discussion, depending on recent events eg Christmas, summer holidays, first anniversaries. Those who have attended for years pass on their wisdom and experience whilst the newly bereaved find reassurance that while their grief will always be, they will learn to live life anew. Life does go on even though it can never be the same. While we meet because of great sadness, our sessions always find laughter with newcomers commenting how their mood feels lighter for having attended.

I am grateful for the support from Judith Howes and Anne Clappison - there are always two of us at each session.

***Margaret Lee***

## **Liturgical Choir Report**

The choir has had a good year supporting regular and special services throughout the year, including the Houghton Feast Civic Service. Our special Lenten service on Passion Sunday was well supported by our congregation and also by St Matthew's, Newbottle and St Michael & All Angels, Easington Lane. Our Advent and Christmas Carol Services were both very special.

Our Late Summer Concert which featured the liturgical choir, the Gilpin Singers and other soloists was excellent again this year. We are grateful for the support of Graham Brown, a gifted musician who accompanied the choirs and soloists. We had wonderfully talented singers and musicians taking part.

Our choir numbers are steady. I would like to thank the choir for their continued commitment and support. We are one of the few churches maintaining a choir. We are always looking and hoping for new members.

I would like to say a thank you to Rector John for his support and encouragement to maintain our great music tradition at St Michael's.

Finally, I would like to thank our other musicians here at St Michael's who help with the music: Andy and Stuart. Also, many thanks to Nikki for her support and help with rehearsing and conducting the choir.

***George Peebles, Director of Music***

## **Young Church**

We are continuing to run sessions alongside the main eucharist at 10am in the meeting room which allows us to share our activities with the congregation at the end of the service. We still have a regular group of 4 or 5 children taking part each Sunday.

Currently, we follow the Gospel stories in church planning from Sermons 4 kids and other useful resources that support the children's faith journey each week. Alongside this, each week worksheets, word searches and colouring materials are available for any children who may want to take part. These activities follow the Gospel story theme in church.

As well as completing tasks/activities each session the children have also taken a role in the 'all age' worship in church each month where the children help with the sermon, take part in the offertory procession, choose the music and the older children support in giving communion. This continues to be an inclusive service and has proved very successful with children of all ages through to the adult congregation!

Philippa, Janine and Jade are continuing to run and support sessions, and sessions are covered on the monthly rota.

We are very excited this year to have 2 children receiving their Holy Communion before confirmation. This has involved them following a set weekly scheme which prepares them for this special event. The children have really enjoyed the programme and have enjoyed sharing the sessions with the congregation at the end of the service. It has involved parents making a commitment to ensure the children are in church regularly and support them in completing little activity tasks at home. As part of the course the children were given their own activity book and were presented with a bible to further support their understanding of the activities and tasks in the sessions. The children are due to receive their first Holy Communion on Easter Sunday.

If anyone knows of any primary aged school children who would enjoy hearing a bible story and then making a craft, please feel free to invite them along.

***Clare Taylor, Young Church Leader***

## **St Michaels 'Stay & Play' (previously 'Toddlers')**

We were very fortunate to have Susan Watson lead us over the last years. Following her retirement I took the lead of the toddler group in October 2024 after returning from maternity leave. This was at first daunting as I knew how long the toddler group had run for and wanted to do this justice (I even attended myself!) The transition of taking on the group was made so easy by the guidance and dedication of the volunteers. They welcomed me with open arms and really showed me the ropes. Their help was absolutely invaluable in making sure I could open the group to the best of my ability.

There was much discussion when i returned of how we could make small changes to the group to attract new children and families, this is when the Stay & Play name came in, this was to make it seen that the group wasn't just for 'toddlers' but for children from birth right up to those ready to start school. We also introduced a song time at the end of the session and a tidy up time. All of this was done initially as a trial to see how this would work with the groups.

Once I settled into the group we looked into the current toys, the volunteers commented that some of the toys were donated when their grandchildren were attending (over a decade ago) - I put a call out amongst my friends and family for some donations and over time we have managed to change out some toys and update some. One volunteer advised me that she knew parents who did feel some of the toys were outdated, especially some of the character toys. This was rectified with the new toy donations, especially our Paw Patrol Toys! We still have a range of toys available, from the home corner which includes a kitchen, toy babies and prams and a market stall (complete with a shopping trolley!) construction toys, toys that use imagination skills and very noisy instruments! The much loved slide is still centre stage, as well as the rocky horse and the rocking boat. We upgraded some of the outdated ride along toys and added some new bikes and scooters.

After some feedback from parents/carers and a change in ages the 'baby corner' has continued to grow. There is a section for smaller babies and also a section that is for older babies, that aren't quite toddling, but then again aren't quite staying still. Juice and biscuits are still a much loved and integral part of the group, alongside tables boasting toys that work on fine motor skills, plenty of jigsaws and an art and crafts table. Parents still have their table to enjoy hot drinks, safely away from little people but still within eye/ear shot, and this gives a great opportunity for parents/carers to chat.

At the end of the session we have a songtime, we use a speaker and have a song and dance together. Some favourites are 'Sleeping Bunnies' - 'Wind the bobbin up' - 'Head Shoulders Knees and Toes' and 'Twinkle Twinkle' - this does usually go down well, mainly with the older children but adults do sit with the younger ones and hopefully with the repetition of the songs the younger ones will begin to learn actions and recognise sounds and words. We then play the tidy up song and get all our bits back into the boxes, again this is received differently depending on ages.

We were fortunate at Christmas to have our Christmas Parties which were well attended, each child got a book from Space4 and a selection box kindly donated by the Mothers Union.

A big thankyou to our volunteer helpers who are invaluable to the group and without whom it all couldn't happen. A special mention to Edith who will be retiring after Easter 2025 who has given 17 years of volunteering service to the group and the children of Houghton – our huge thanks – we will miss you greatly Edith

***Jade Turbull-Mason, Children & Community Coordinator***

## **Flower Guild**

We have been able to continue with our work throughout the year. We receive many positive compliments about the flowers which is made possible by the many kind and gratefully received donations.

If you would like to sponsor a pedestal arrangement at any time during the year (apart from Lent or Easter) there is a sign up list on the notice board at the back of Church.

***Carole Cunningham***

## **Hand-Bells**

The group met after Houghton Feast on Monday evenings at 5pm to practise for the Advent Carol Service and Christmas Eve Service. We play the bells to a number system, so if you would like to join the group and can be available for the services mentioned please get in touch! New members are always welcome!

***Carole Cunningham***

## **The Gilpin Singers**

This year has seen our usual summer and winter concerts, with the Church filled to full capacity. We have also participated in the Church's Summer concert and the choir also staged a concert for the Houghton Feast celebrations. We were invited to sing at Lambton Castle in December. The guests were very complimentary!

All of this is made possible by our enthusiastic and dedicated conductor Laura Parkin: we are very thankful for her input. Our thanks also to Graham Brown for accompanying the choir at our concerts and to all who work hard and contribute to the choir's success.

***Carole Cunningham***

## **Signpost**

Our magazine, Signpost, continues to be notice board, advertiser and commenter on local, national and worldwide issues that affect us all at St. Michaels. We try to reflect opinions and current values in what we do and think of the world we are in. Our news is current and reflects where we are this month, but, I think, even more importantly we have an opportunity to comment on the place and time we are in. Most pleasing to me is the copy I receive from members of our congregation that express views on current events and experiences. This "home produced" copy is the difference that makes the magazine "ours". Please keep it coming. Thanks as always to the whole team and distributors for making it happen.

***Malcolm Foster***

## 10.2 REPORTS FROM CHURCH AFFILIATED ORGANISATIONS

### **Kepier Trust and Management Committee**

It is my pleasure to report on the amazing work that has been achieved over the last year at the Kepier Hall. The Trust has been very fortunate in successfully bidding for funding from many sources that has enabled major work to the building being carried out. This, of course, is ongoing – as one major job gets done, another one is in the pipeline. We are always on the lookout for other funding opportunities and there are many! The application process takes a lot of time and energy as you can imagine.

The regular users of the Kepier are very complimentary of the newly refurbished interior and a real plus is the much-improved heating system which keeps everyone happy.

We are fortunate to have a new tenant in the newly refurbished Gilpin flat.

I would like to thank the Caretaker/Coordinator, Mr. Darren Snaith, and fellow Trustee, Ali Young, as well as Management Team for their support over this last year when so much has been achieved. Keep watching this space for other improvements!

***Jean Henderson***

### **The Friends of Houghton Hillside Cemetery**

The committee resumed our meetings earlier in the year and started to organise litter picks and tidy-ups. Our website is being updated and is not available at present. The weather this year has been against us at every opportunity, and our planned clean-ups have had to be cancelled. Once again, we are grateful to members of our local community who have kept the place tidy.

We planned a big clean-up during the late summer, before Remembrance Day, but this had to be cancelled because the wet weather had given the brambles a super boost and made the paths to the War Graves impenetrable. A landscape gardening company were willing to clear the paths at a reasonable cost. Their results were impressive and more than we could achieve.

Our AGM was held in Church on 24<sup>th</sup> October, and this year we decided to pare back our meeting and not have a guest speaker.

For Remembrance Day, we laid a wreath at the Cenotaph at Church and one against the monument in the Cemetery. The War Graves commission had cleaned the headstones in the cemetery prior to this and people have laid poppies and crosses on the graves.

We are looking forward to getting back into full swing in 2025!

***Alastair Bradley, Chair.***

## **The Friends of Houghton Parish Church Trust**

Now in our 31<sup>st</sup> year, we can look back over the years and see how important the Trust has been in providing the funds for essential work and maintenance to our beloved ancient Church of St. Michael and All Angels. This important work continues as we speak!

Looking back to last year's report, we were then thinking of ideas on how to boost the membership numbers. A leaflet drop has been considered but we would need to have a team of helpers to do this. If anyone has any other ideas on how to do this, please get in touch.

We spent a lot of time this year deciding whether to put the annual subscriptions up but in the end we decided to leave it up to each individual member as quite a few have already voluntarily done this.

The Friends are committed to opening the Church throughout the summer months for a short period of time during each week. Come along and have a chat and a coffee with our stewards – it may be something you would like to do.

***Jean Henderson, Trustee***

## **Houghton Mothers' Union**

We have 44 members. 33 attend regular meetings and 11 are indoor members.

Olive Gibson, who transferred from Newbottle when the branch closed, sadly passed away.

We have welcomed 4 new members and 1 lady has rejoined. 2 of the members have been admitted; the other 3 members will be admitted in our Thursday Morning Service as soon as possible.

### **Mothers' Union community projects**

The branch was able to buy St Michael's toddler group a selection box for each child at Christmas. The refuge in Houghton received bags with a knitted snowman and a selection of sweeties inside.

We continue to support the church with baptisms, sending annual baptism anniversary cards for 5 years after baptism. Each child who is baptised also gets a knitted Teddy.

### **Mothers' Union UK**

We sent a £171 contribution to head office for 'Make a Mother's day': thank you for your generosity.

£114 was sent for the 'Summer of Hope' project.

The 'Summer of Hope' project is a fantastic opportunity to build on years of wonderful work that's transforming the lives of women and girls in sub-Saharan Africa.

Literacy and numeracy are vital life skills for all of us. In the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), our faithful support is already empowering women to release themselves from the cycle of poverty.

## Branch programme 2024

January	was our AGM
February	Meal at the mill
March	Easter readings in church
April	Rev Norma Clee, Durham Diocese MU Chaplain
May	Rev John Barron
June	Summer trip to Trenchers, Whitley Bay. We had a grant from the coalfields for the bus.
July	Deanery branches joined us for the 'Summer of Hope' tea.
August	We don't meet.
September	Harvest lunch
October	Sue Elsey
November	Margaret Lee
December	Advent service in church. We also had Christmas lunch one day at the Bistro in Cherry Trees.

***Joan Beattie, Branch Leader.***

## 2nd Houghton Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers

All four units are running at maximum capacity at the moment with waiting lists. We have had a very busy year with many events.

Rainbows had a sleepover in September which also included a visit to the Blue Reef Aquarium. Rainbows have a sleepover coming up on 5th April with 11 girls attending.

Guides/Rangers had a sleepover on 8th February which included a visit to the Escape Room in the Metro centre and then the girls were given time to go shopping. We then returned to the Kepier Hall for pizza and sleep!

Brownies had a weekend at PGL in Newby Wiske in May 2024 and we are going again this year in May with 31 Brownies and Guides.

The units took part in the Houghton Feast parade as well as running a stall at the church coffee morning. We appreciate the support that we are given from church to help us to fundraise for the units.

The girls were involved in the Remembrance Sunday parade.

We attended the Uniformed carol service in church. Many parents came along to watch the service.

***Sheila Wynn***

## 10.3 REPORTS FROM SPACE4: THE COMMUNITY

### PROJECT OF ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS'

#### Summary

The past year has been exceptionally busy for Space4. We have developed our partnership working with other organisations which has enabled us to offer a wide range of opportunities for our service users, including arts & crafts workshops, digital skills, beauty courses and advice sessions with a number of different organisations, alongside our regular activities and services.

#### **a) Creatively addressing food poverty**

Our foodbank/community food store has been at the forefront of our work to address food poverty. We have seen an increase in the numbers requiring foodbank support reflecting the ongoing cost of living crisis. We have been fortunate to receive significantly more grant funding for the foodbank from both Sunderland City Council and grant funders which has enabled us to distribute large amounts of stock over the past 6 months. We have also received several donations from local schools, organisations and individuals in the community, including some large donations from Harvest Festival and at Christmas time, for which we are incredibly grateful.

We have spent much of the past year reviewing and refining our processes and procedures, including moving to online ordering of deliveries which has massively improved efficiency. We have also improved our processes around foodbank membership cards with our food coordinator now meeting with people when they first present for foodbank to find out how best to support them and signposting to relevant organisations. A review meeting is then held after 4 weeks to check whether support is still needed and to follow up on whether they have accessed the support. This process is working well although we continue to monitor and review procedures on an ongoing basis. In addition, we have introduced a much more robust stock management process with weekly summary sheets showing the value of food distributed and amount of wastage alongside regular stock takes, including recording donated food. This has enabled us to have a much clearer picture of the amount of food distributed and the current mix of our food sources.

Our Foodstore served a cumulative total of 1891 households in 2024.

As well as our food store, our food offer in the Hub has grown over the past year with hot food offered 3 days per week. Meals typically cost around £3.50 but can be offered on a PAYF/free basis for those in need.

In June we ran our first slow cooker course which was very well received and delivered another couple of courses later in the year. The courses ran for 4 weeks with participants given the ingredients for that week's recipe to try at home. With the help of match funding from the local authority, we were also able to give participants their own slow cooker to take home, along with a set of knives and kitchen utensils. Feedback from the courses was extremely positive.

## **b) Responding to isolation**

We had a new Hub Coordinator, Natalie, start in post in February and she made a huge impact, particularly in developing relationships with other organisations and providers. It was an exceptionally busy year in our Hub; alongside our daily drop ins, we have offered a wide variety of courses and workshops, thereby creating more opportunities for our service users to learn new skills and improve their confidence and mental wellbeing. These have also resulted in new people coming into Space4 for the first time, many of whom have then returned to access other activities.

Another exciting development was the long-awaited installation of our Tech Hub area at the end of May – although the take up for this hasn't been great, we hope to develop this further in the coming year.

In June we celebrated our amazing volunteers with an awards ceremony and buffet lunch. It was fantastic to have our volunteers and staff from across all Space4's different projects come together and to have the opportunity to say thank you for all they do.

Our children's work has also gone from strength to strength over this year. Our children's coordinator went on maternity leave at the start of the year but Kim did a great job in her absence running our weekly Tuesday Treat afterschool club and various activities during school holidays. The summer months were busy with children's holiday activities taking place twice a week. In total 42 unique children accessed at least one of our summer activities, 24 of whom were new to Space4.

We were able to offer a wide range of activities in partnership with other organisations including Durham Wildlife Trust, Active Sunderland and Sunderland Culture such as drama, dance, healthy eating, graffiti art and bug hunting. A local pub, The White Lion, very generously provided lunch for free for the children throughout the summer holidays and also provided free packed lunches for our Space4 trip to Beamish Museum in August. We filled a double decker bus for this trip and feedback was overwhelmingly positive.

In September, we were delighted to welcome Jade back from maternity leave. As part of her role as children's coordinator, Jade took over the running of the Toddlers group which was rebranded as Stay and Play. As part of the rebrand, we made some changes to the sessions including introducing a song and rhyme section at the end. Although it took a little while for the children (& parents!) to get used to this change, it has given the sessions more structure and helped children understand when the session is coming to an end. Sleeping Bunnies is particularly popular with the children!! Throughout all these changes, our amazing volunteers have, again, provided much needed consistency and continuity for parents and children.

Our adult service users as well as the children have also benefited from activities with partner organisations; Cultural Spring ran 4 art workshops over July-September, focusing on using natural materials including making natural inks whilst WEA ran a number of courses for us including a beginners' digital skills course, jewellery making course and a nail art course which took place on an evening. The latter was so popular with the 8 people who attended that we had to put on a follow up nails, lashes and brows course. All of these courses have helped people connect and open up and it has been lovely to see people's confidence grow.

Our craft group were also fortunate to have a ceramicist come in to work with them over a few weeks as part of the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust's 80 Candles for 80 years project. This project saw 80 community organisations across the UK design and create a bespoke candle holder to highlight the life of an individual or a community persecuted by the Nazis to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau in 2025. The candle holder Space4 designed formed part of a digital exhibition for Holocaust Memorial Day and went on display at Houghton Library.

We were also able to start offering transport to those attending our Cake & Chat group for elderly members of the community in September following a successful grant application to pay for transport for 12 months. This has enabled us to reach more socially isolated people who were previously unable to access the group.

October was very busy with both half-term and Houghton Feast taking place this month. As well as having 55 people take part in the parade at the start of Houghton Feast, we held activities throughout the week, including a rag wreath workshop and a pie and peas afternoon with dominoes and a beetle drive.

The last couple of months of the year didn't see us slowing down! We launched our digital skills sessions and a games afternoon and hosted our first Young Carers' Drop in with Sunderland Carers Centre which now takes place monthly.

We ended the year on a high with lots of different Christmas craft activities taking place throughout December, our annual children's Christmas party which was attended by 66 children and a Space4 nativity service with staff, volunteers and service users taking part. And, of course, we hosted our Christmas Day lunch which saw 39 adults and 11 children share a 3 course meal and join in with carol singing, a Christmas quiz and bingo.

Our drop in has seen a total footfall of 6118 people over the year, 220 of whom were new to Space4. Tuesday Treat has had a footfall of 1038 children whilst Stay & Play has had 727 children.

### **c) Challenging inequalities**

Due to low numbers, we decided to stop our monthly clothing events and instead concentrate on school uniform events at key times of the year, including Easter and May half-term. We held several pre-loved uniform events in August in readiness for the new school term. Through these events we supported a total of 62 households comprising 138 children. An exciting new development was the launch of our online uniform request form in September which allows us to respond to requests as and when needed.

We have also had several partner organisations attend our drop-in sessions over the past year to provide advice and support. These include SHARP (local information, advice and guidance service), Sunderland Carers Centre, Healthwatch, Gentoo Money Matters team and Vodaphone who ran a couple of Tech Tea Parties to help people with IT and digital issues.

We were incredibly fortunate to be chosen by Houghton Rugby Club as their charity of the year and they ran a Christmas gift campaign on our behalf. With their generous donations alongside donations from Dunelm and Lidl, we were able to give Christmas gifts to 60 children whose families are in financial hardship.

Much of our work in this area has been focused on developing a culture of community organising, giving people a voice and encouraging and supporting them to participate in democracy. In the past year we had local, regional and national elections and we worked closely with Tyne and Wear Citizens to put our key 'asks' around cost of living and housing to candidates. We also signed up to become a voter registration hub, ensuring people knew how to register to vote either in person or via postal vote, and having conversations with them about why voting matters.

Prior to the mayoral elections in May, we attended the Tyne and Wear Citizen's Mayoral Assembly on 22nd April. We had a great turnout from Space4 and the church, filling approximately two thirds of a double decker bus, plus others who made their own way there.

Some of our staff and volunteers were involved in the housing and cost of living teams. They were very involved with the process from beginning to end, from feeding in issues that have come out of our listening, providing case studies/testimonies that were used on the night, honing the 'asks' presented to the candidates, planning the presentation of the asks, and we even had 3 people speaking on stage in front of an audience of approximately 800!

Denise spoke very eloquently on the impact of the cost of living crisis on quality of life, Becca gave a very emotional testimony about carer pay (which got the biggest response of the night from the audience), and Beth read out the testimony from a Space4 member about battling with landlords and the difficulty of getting appropriate social housing. The testimonies clearly made a significant impact on the candidates and audience alike.

As a direct result of Denise's moving speech at the assembly, she was invited to go to Darlington to speak with Kier Starmer and Rachel Reeves about the cost of living crisis! Despite being incredibly nervous, she put her case passionately, and was listened to reflectively and thoughtfully by both politicians.

This work continued with the surprise announcement of the general election and preparation for a national assembly in London with representatives from the three main parties. It was a real inspiration to be a part of it and to see people taking on roles way beyond their comfort zone, and absolutely smashing it!

We've not only been involved in influencing regional and national politicians however; Space4 was also visited by representatives of Durham Diocese and the King's Office who are tasked with choosing the next Bishop of Durham. Staff, volunteers and service users all had the opportunity to speak to them about what they wanted from the next incumbent with one of our regulars suggesting that Rev'd John Barron be given the role!

Following the riots in Sunderland in the summer, one of our staff helped facilitate a Weaving Trust session at the Unity in the Community event held at Sunderland Minster on 19th October. Weaving Trust events are a tool for bringing communities together, building bridges, creating awareness and weaving trust through contact and conversation. Using a speed meeting format, 1:1 conversations lasting 6-8 minutes, are facilitated with the use of guided questions (e.g. why do you love your area, what would you change about it) with a wrap up session at the end. The feedback from this session was very positive and a further session was held at the VONNE conference which was equally well received.

In November we had a double decker join us as part of a listening campaign across the northern region to find out what issues people face when using public transport. We listened on the bus and also took to Newbottle Street to listen to those using the buses. Collectively we listened to 37 people and fed this back to Tyne & Wear Citizens. The issues raised ranged from accessibility to reliability and the lack of variety of public transport available to the local community. These issues were shared in a meeting Tyne & Wear Citizens held with Martin Tugwell, CEO for Transport for the North, on 2nd December. One of our staff co-chaired this meeting thereby ensuring that the voice of our community was heard.

For a small grassroots community organisation we have really punched above our weight over the past year and this has been recognised by others, with the deputy director of Citizen's UK approaching one of our staff and congratulating her on our involvement. Our work as a voter registration hub has also been held up by Citizens UK as an example of good practice.

***Justine Merton-Scott, Space4 Manager***

# St Michael & All Angels, The Church of England in Houghton-le-Spring

Find us at



[Facebook.com/stmichaelshls](https://www.facebook.com/stmichaelshls)



[www.stmichaelshls.org.uk](http://www.stmichaelshls.org.uk)



[www.achurchnearyou.com/church/13689/](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/13689/)



[stmichaels.hls@gmail.com](mailto:stmichaels.hls@gmail.com)



<https://bit.ly/supportStM>

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# Accounts

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St Michael & All Angels  
Houghton-le-Spring

# ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING 2024

Sunday 12th May  
11.15 am



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The Church of England parish church of St Michael and All Angels in the ancient town of Houghton-le-Spring has been at the heart of our community for over a thousand years. Our magnificent church building stands as a visible symbol of Christ's presence, as do the many ways we reach out to support and serve our local community. This report celebrates the work of the church in the last year through our church groups, including the activities of our community project 'Space4', as well as the activities of organisations with strong affiliations to St Michael's. A report of our church finances is given and a report on the finances of Space4 which are managed separately. A consolidated report of both sets of finances is also provided.

### **Parochial Church Council 2023-24**

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical, as well as the maintenance and upkeep of the ancient building. The PCC meets monthly throughout the year and may hold extraordinary meetings as and when they are required.

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

The Standing Committee of the PCC is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the PCC. The Standing Committee consists of the Rector, Church Wardens, Assistant Wardens, Treasurer and Secretary.

During the past year, the following served as members of the PCC:

<b>Incumbent</b>	Reverend John Barron
<b>Church Wardens</b>	Rita Turnbull, Alastair Bradley
<b>Treasurer, Gift Aid Officer</b>	Sue Bradley
<b>Secretary</b>	Angela Slater
<b>Safeguarding Officer</b>	Kevin Bond (until August 2023)
<b>Ministry Team Representative</b>	Reverend Margaret Lee
<b>Deanery Synod Representatives</b>	David Hann, Dian Scott, Sue Elsey Term of Office 2023-26
<b>Elected members</b>	Kathleen Close – Term of Office 2023-24 Malcolm Foster, Brian Scott (Asst.Church Warden), Clare Taylor, Jade Turnbull-Mason Term of Office 2023-26
	Lynn Scott, Simon Hardy (Asst.Church Warden) Term of Office 2022-25
	Sheila Foster, David Turnbull Term of Office 2021-24
<b>Co-opted members</b>	George Peebles (Director of Music)

### **Sidespersons**

Joan Beattie	Sheila Gamble	Evelyn Garbutt
Elaine Harkness	Jean Henderson	Brian Scott
Dian Scott	Catherine Moore	David Turnbull
Rita Turnbull	John Wilde	Susan Wilde
Bob Wile		

## ***Changes in membership of the Electoral Roll, 2023***

The current number on the Electoral Roll is 124. 5 people have joined the Electoral Roll since last year but we have had 4 people who sadly are deceased.

We have three Ministers with 'Permission to Officiate' (PTO) who are members of the church.

Rita Turnbull, Electoral Roll Officer

## ***Church Report for 2023: The Year in Review***

Our parish church of St Michael and All Angels did much in the year to serve our local community and to enable the worship and prayer of the people of Houghton-le-Spring. Each week we held 3-4 services of Holy Communion, 1-2 Services of the Word and up to 4 Baptism services a month. We also hosted many extra seasonal, civic and special services for the community. As well as the worship in our building, we retain our weekly Facebook on-line service – we continue to have a small community who worship with us in that way. Others who are unable to physically come to church are part of our 'church at home' community and regularly receive Holy Communion distributed by members of our Ministry Team. Our 'Usual Sunday Attendance' in the church building saw a small increase to 82 towards the end of the year.

We hosted a number of civic services that continue to be important to our local community. These included our annual 'Feast Service' in October attended by the Deputy Lord Lieutenant, the Mayor of Sunderland and other civic guests (after the service all were welcomed to Kepier Hall for lunch!) We held a special service in May in honour of the Coronation of HM the King. Our traditional Remembrance Sunday was very full inside the church building with huge numbers of people also attending the outdoor Act of Remembrance at the Cenotaph. Advent and Christmas saw us hosting our traditional Carol Services which were very well attended: services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day welcomed 395 people (as compared with 377 the previous year).

Last year we prioritised the introduction and development of our monthly 'All Age Communion' service. We had a wide range of themes including 'kingship', 'environment' and 'friendship'. We have been really encouraged by feedback from families and grateful to the dedicated team who are involved in the preparation. The service is different for many of our regulars on Sunday but it feels an important thing for us to grow and develop in future as we seek to encourage our children and young people in faith. We had local Guides attend three services in the year and also last year Scouts at our Christmas Service. We were really pleased that all three primary schools attended church for Christmas services and visited church during the year; we also led services in Kepier school at Remembrance and Christmas. The number of children who are attending worship regularly and those in our 'worshipping community' is noticeably down and this is something we will need to give more priority to in future.

Music continued to play a major part in our church life last year. Our dedicated and talented Musical Director and Organist George Peebles leads our very accomplished robed choir: they support our worship at six or more of our services every month as well as some major seasonal and special services in the year. We also had a full wider music programme last year: Gilpin Singers, our community choir led by Laura Parkin, held their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary concert; we hosted Concerts, Organ Recitals, Brass Bands and Sunderland Symphonia last year. As well as our more traditional worship, we hold services with more contemporary music, 'All-age' and 'Engage'. and are very fortunate that Stuart Clappison and Andy Slater lead this music for us. Andy also regularly plays organ for us at services. Very sadly, our dear brother-in-Christ Tom Ritson passed away last year – we have been very blessed over the years by his playing organ for us especially at mid-week services and funerals. We thank God for Tom's great service to our community and, with his loved ones, mourn his passing.

We made some great progress in working together with our brothers and sisters at St Matthew's Newbottle and St Michael & All Angels, Easington Lane with whom we are joining in a group ministry. We held a joint Lent course, 'The Folly of God', also joint services on Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday and during Holy Week. We shared in a joint pilgrimage walking between the three parishes and shared in fellowship in several events across the year. Our ministry team are now regularly supporting worship in St Matthew's. As well as regular Steering Group meetings throughout the year we held a number of joint PCCs to help us navigate our coming together. The year ahead is likely to see more formal arrangements coming into place as the parishes join more formally and work out what may need to change to accommodate this.

We conducted 48 baptisms in the year. This is less than the unprecedented 59 in 2022 but consistent with numbers held before the pandemic. There were 7 weddings in church (compared to 8 the year before). We held 36 funerals last year – this is less than previous years and is something that is a trend in the wider community. We are seeking to make sure we are working well with Funeral Directors but expect this to be a continuing trend in future. With the not insignificant numbers of funerals still coming to us, we very sadly lost some much-loved people from our church family. We've sought to care for each other in our bereavement and to reach out to support all those grieving: as well as our funeral ministry we held an 'All Souls' service, a Remembering Service at Christmas (with Derek Moss Funeral Directors) and a monthly bereavement support group in our Space4 Hub on Newbottle Street.

Across our ministry team we continued to operate a 'Pastoral Care Scheme' to seek to look after our wider church family. There is also some great informal pastoral care that takes place between our church members. The production and distribution of our parish 'Signpost' magazine continued to be an important way of remaining in touch with people who are still very much part of our church family even if they're less able to physically be present in the building on Sunday mornings. We are very blessed to have an active and hardworking chapter of Mother's Union at Houghton and they have provided a great point of focus and important care for members of church and wider membership.

We are very fortunate to have some great support from retired ordained ministers with PTO (Permission to Officiate): Rev'd Margaret Lee, Rev'd Judith Howes and Rev'd Claire Cullingworth, along with our dedicated team of Readers in Sue Elsey, Ros Pickersgill and Anne Clappison all of

whom have provided significant support to our church over this last year, not least over the time of the Rector's Sabbatical. We owe a great debt of thanks to them and our Standing Committee and PCC for the huge efforts that go on behind the scenes in keeping church operating, dealing with Finances, HR, Administration and Building Management.

There was, as ever, significant work behind the scenes to keep our church building operating: this includes great support from our church wardens, verger, technical verger, assistant verger, cleaners, gardeners, stewards, linen and silver washers, brass polishers, tea makers, cake bakers, people on rotas etc etc, as well as our incredibly creative flower arrangers and dedicated open-church stewards. We're indebted to them and to our incredible Parish Administrator who also provided great support 'behind the scenes' for our church people, the wider community and the Rector!

Last year we made huge progress in serving our community through our Space4 project. We have been able to do this because of significant grant funding including from Lottery's Reaching Communities Fund and other funders. Our overall aim is to provide for a community with a 'Space4 everyone to flourish': focussing on responding to food poverty, supporting people struggling with isolation and anxiety (especially the elderly and those feeling marginalised), challenging inequalities facing children and young people. A good example of our shift in focus of the project is moving our foodbank to more of a community Foodstore where people can come and have agency to choose the food they need and make a donation if they're able to. In the past year we also began working with 'Tyne and Wear Citizens' to help us move into Community Organising as we seek to challenge some of the injustices people in our communities are facing.

As an indication of the impact we're having with our project, our Foodstore served a cumulative total of 1937 households in 2023 (that's 3043 adults and 1825 children) while our drop-in saw a total footfall of 7037 people over the year. We have a very strong and dedicated Project Board with members of PCC and Community representatives to lead our project. We have had a number of staffing changes over last year and are delighted to now have in place Justine Merton-Scott as our Space4 Manager and Natalie Jane as our Space4 Hub Coordinator. The early part of the coming year will see the need to secure additional funding from external grant providers to enable the project to continue delivering this increasingly important work.

***Rev'd John Barron, Rector***

**ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS  
HOUGHTON LE SPRING**

**ANNUAL STATEMENT  
OF ACCOUNTS**

**1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2023**

**PCC Treasurer  
Mrs Sue Bradley**

**Independent Examiner  
Mr Peter Brown**

**St Michael and All Angels Parish Church  
Church Street  
Houghton le Spring  
DH4 4DN**

**Registered Charity No. 1135095**

# St Michael and All Angels, Houghton le Spring

## Treasurer's Annual Report for Year 1 January – 31 December 2023

### Overall Bank Balance

The end of year Overall PCC and Next 900 Bank Accounts Balance at **31 December 2023** breakdown and comparison to previous years is detailed below:-

	<b>December 2021</b>	<b>December 2022</b>	<b>December 2023</b>
<b>PCC - Unrestricted</b>	£25,024.86	£31,869.61	£23,995.19
<b>PCC – Restricted</b>	£14,770.00	£21,078.00	£21,078.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£39,794.86</b>	<b>£52,947.61</b>	<b>£45,073.19</b>
<b>Next 900 Account</b>	£ 3,898.61	£ 4,324.61	£4,650.61
<b>Overall Total</b>	<b>£43,693.47</b>	<b>£57,272.22</b>	<b>£49,723.80</b>
<b>CBF Legacies</b>	£ 164.11	£ 166.27	£171.60

### Assets

The PCC hold a log of all material assets and this report covers only the monetary assets.

### Outstanding Liabilities

We have no outstanding liabilities.

### Receipts and Payments for 2023 in comparison to previous years.

	<b>December 2021</b>	<b>December 2022</b>	<b>December 2023</b>
<b>Receipts</b>	£104,208	£118,057	£97,299
<b>Payments</b>	£104,915	£104,903	£105,173

An overview breakdown of some of the main headings of Receipts and Payments and comparison to previous year is detailed below:-

<b>Receipts</b>	<b>December 2021</b>	<b>December 2022</b>	<b>December 2023</b>
Planned Giving	£ 46,709	£44,719	£43,458
Gift Aid Recovered	£ 9,363	£11,578	£11,570
Collections	£ 7,168	£10,228	£9,296
Donations	£ 3,328	£ 9,261	£4,954
Online Donations	£ 1,017	£ 534	£ 470
Parish Magazine Sales	£ 1,881	£ 1,783	£1,713
Parish Magazine Adverts	£ 135	£ 1,013	£ 810
PCC Fees	£ 8,504	£ 9,569	£7,074
Fundraising	£ 4,644	£ 5,810	£5,535

Our Planned Giving income in 2023 was down by £1261, as a result of the number of Regular Givers reducing from those in 2022 as detailed below:-

<b>Regular Planned Givers</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
Parish Giving Scheme	40	40	37
Standing Order	33	30	27
Stewardship Envelope	28	26	25
<b>Total Regular Givers</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>89</b>

Gift Aid recovered although claimed in 2023 relates to income from 2022 and for GASDS up to 31 March 2023.

Collections from our Church Services, Funerals, Weddings, Baptisms and Other Events has reduced in 2023 by £932 compared to the 2022 figure mainly due to a reduction in the number of Funeral Services held in Church.

Donations – although the £4,954 appears substantially lower than 2022 figure of £9,261, this included a one-off donation £5,308 from the Bellringers of Houghton Church who had disbanded.

The Gilpin Singers have generously donated £1,000 in 2023: thank you.

Parish Magazine Sales have been reasonably consistent over the last year, with a small reduction in income of £70. Our pricing structure for 2023 remained at £6 per annum for an email version and £1 per copy for the printed version or £10 instead of £12 for a full year. Thank you to all involved in the production of the Magazine especially Malcolm Foster, Philippa Elsey and the magazine distributors.

Parish Magazine Advertising, has reduced substantially from pre-covid days and has again reduced in 2023 by £203. This an area that will require review during 2024.

PCC Fees – 34 Funerals (26 in Church, 8 Crematorium Only), 5 Weddings and 1 Burial of Ashes took place in 2023. In comparison to 2022 overall Funerals reduced by 9, but those held in Church reduced by 12 as we had 3 more Crematorium only. Weddings reduced by 1 and Burial of Ashes reduced by 4.

Fundraising got underway with a coffee morning held in early March, and a further coffee morning was held in July. The late Summer Concert at the end of September was very enjoyable. It led into the celebrations and a busy time during Houghton Feast fortnight starting with a Feast Saturday coffee morning and lunches, Civic Service and concerts from Houghton Brass Band and Sunderland Symphonia. At the end of November we held a Christmas Fayre with Santa and stalls. Thank you to all involved in arranging and making these events happen and to those who contributed and participated. The Bonus Ball raised £1,225 during 2023 and continues to run smoothly. Thank you to Brian Scott for organising and to all who take part.



*(Please see attached detailed Receipts and Payments Accounts for Year ended 31 December 2023)*

## **End of Year Summary**

Overall, for the year we ended with a deficit of £7,874. We have been able to maintain reasonable Unrestricted Reserves of £23,995 to start 2024, although we need to carefully manage budgets: currently for most months our expenditure exceeds income.

As mentioned above our Planned Giving has reduced mainly due to the reduced number of givers. As well as reviewing within our Church community, we should also consider opportunities to further promote St Michael and All Angels to the wider community. Also review access to online giving.

At September PCC 2023 we agreed our pledge to pay a Parish Share of £43,000 in 2024 (our Guided Pledge from the Diocese is £49,350). We have agreed to review this on a quarterly basis.

In 2024, in addition to any smaller building repairs that are covered within the budget, we require roof repairs and gutter cleaning (approx £1000). Going forward, building remedial work is required on the walls in the North Chancel. Our Architect has provided a rough guided estimate for the work of £35,000. Work is also required on our Stained Glass windows. The most urgent work has already been costed and will be carried out in 2024. Further work will need to be scheduled over the next few years, and costings for this work will be undertaken when a timetable is agreed. Funding sources for these projects is to be looked at during 2024.

Thank you to all for your help, support and generosity throughout the year.

Thank you to Peter Brown, External Examiner, for reviewing and examining our Accounts for 2023. Your continued support is much appreciated.

Sue Bradley  
PCC Treasurer

**St Michael & All Angels Houghton-le-Spring**  
**Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December**  
**Receipts and Payments Accounts**

**2023**

	Note	Unrestricted Fund	Unrestricted Designated Fund	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
		£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>							
<b>Voluntary receipts:</b>							
Planned giving		43,458	-	428	-	43,886	44,719
Collections		9,296	-	-	-	9,296	10,228
Gift Aid recovered		11,570	-	-	-	11,570	11,578
All other giving/voluntary	2	5,425	-	-	-	5,425	17,648
		<b>69,749</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>428</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>70,177</b>	<b>84,173</b>
<b>Activities for generating funds</b>	3	<b>6,345</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6,345</b>	<b>6,823</b>
<b>Investment income</b>	4	<b>125</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>120</b>
<b>Church activities:</b>							
Income from trading	5	3,341	-	-	-	3,341	3,851
Asset sales	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other receipts	7	17,739	-	-	-	17,739	23,089
		<b>21,080</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>21,080</b>	<b>26,940</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>		<b>97,299</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>428</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>97,727</b>	<b>118,056</b>
<b>Payments</b>							
<b>Church activities:</b>							
Parish share		47,000	-	-	-	47,000	48,000
Clergy and staffing costs	8	11,637	-	-	-	11,637	9,448
Church running expenses	9	27,452	-	-	-	27,452	21,866
Hall running costs	10	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mission giving and donations	11	4,608	-	-	-	4,608	5,230
Costs of trading	12	1,605	-	-	-	1,605	1,210
Repairs and redecorations	13	1,593	-	-	-	1,593	1,086
Asset purchases	14	-	-	-	-	-	-
		<b>93,894</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>93,894</b>	<b>86,840</b>
<b>Cost of generating funds</b>	15	<b>11,280</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>11,382</b>	<b>18,063</b>
<b>Governance costs</b>	16	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Other Outgoing Resources costs</b>	16	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>		<b>105,173</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>105,275</b>	<b>104,903</b>
<b>Excess of receipts over payments</b>		<b>(7,874)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(7,548)</b>	<b>13,153</b>
Transfers between funds	17	-	-	-	-	-	(6,308)
		<b>(7,874)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(7,548)</b>	<b>6,845</b>
Sale/(purchase) of investments		-	-	-	-	-	-
Cash at bank and in hand at 1 Jan		31,870	-	25,403	-	57,272	43,693
Cash at bank and in hand at 31 Dec		<b>23,995</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>25,729</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>49,724</b>	<b>57,272</b>



## Further Analysis of Receipts and Payments

	Note	Unrestricted Fund	Unrestricted Designated Fund	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
		£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>							
<b>All other giving/voluntary receipts:</b>	<b>2</b>						
Other regular gifts		1,038	-	-	-	1,038	1,286
Donations, appeals, etc		4,386	-	-	-	4,386	3,328
Legacies		-	-	-	-	-	-
Recurring grants		-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-recurring one-off grants		-	-	-	-	-	9,218
Other funds generated		-	-	-	-	-	-
		<b>5,425</b>	-	-	-	<b>5,425</b>	<b>13,832</b>
<b>Activities for generating funds:</b>	<b>3</b>						
Bookstall sales - fund raising		-	-	-	-	-	-
Magazine income - advertising		810	-	-	-	810	135
Fundraising Activities & Events		5,535	-	-	-	5,535	4,644
		<b>6,345</b>	-	-	-	<b>6,345</b>	<b>4,779</b>
<b>Investment Income:</b>	<b>4</b>						
Dividends		-	-	-	-	-	-
Trust fund interest		-	-	-	-	-	-
Bank and building society interest		125	-	-	-	125	101
Rent from lands or buildings		-	-	-	-	-	-
Rent from Masts and other property		-	-	-	-	-	-
		<b>125</b>	-	-	-	<b>125</b>	<b>101</b>
<b>Income from Trading:</b>	<b>5</b>						
Bookstall sales - trading		-	-	-	-	-	-
Church hall lettings - trading		-	-	-	-	-	-
Parish magazine sales		1,713	-	-	-	1,713	1,881
Use of photocopier		-	-	-	-	-	-
Other income		1,627	-	-	-	1,627	-
		<b>3,341</b>	-	-	-	<b>3,341</b>	<b>1,881</b>
<b>Asset sales:</b>	<b>6</b>						
Sales of fixed assets		-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Other receipts:</b>	<b>7</b>						
PCC Fees for weddings and funerals		7,074	-	-	-	7,074	8,504
Assigned Fees for weddings and funerals		10,665	-	-	-	10,665	10,640
Insurance claims		-	-	-	-	-	1,231
Surplus - sales of fixed assets		-	-	-	-	-	-
Sundry income for Mission		-	-	-	-	-	-
Sundry income		-	-	-	-	-	-
		<b>17,739</b>	-	-	-	<b>17,739</b>	<b>20,375</b>

**Payments**

**Church activities:**

Missionary giving and donations	11	4,608	-	-	-	4,608	3,405
Clergy and Staffing costs	8	11,637	-	-	-	11,637	9,303
Church running costs	9	18,682	-	-	-	18,682	14,182
Church utility costs	9	8,770	-	-	-	8,770	4,635
Hall running costs	10	-	-	-	-	-	-
Costs of trading	12	1,605	-	-	-	1,605	10,973
		<b>45,301</b>	-	-	-	<b>45,301</b>	<b>42,498</b>

**Major repairs and building works:**

Church major repairs	13	1,593	-	-	-	1,593	921
Hall + major repairs		-	-	-	-	-	-
New building costs		-	-	-	-	-	-
		<b>1,593</b>	-	-	-	<b>1,593</b>	<b>921</b>

**Asset purchases:**

Purchase of fixed assets	14	-	-	-	-	-	-
--------------------------	----	---	---	---	---	---	---

**Cost of generating voluntary income:**

Costs of Church Activities & Events	15	499	-	-	-	499	1,079
Fees paid out for weddings and other services		10,120	-	-	-	10,120	10,634
Investment management costs		660	-	102	-	762	667
Bookstall costs		-	-	-	-	-	-
		<b>11,280</b>	-	<b>102</b>	-	<b>11,382</b>	<b>12,380</b>

**Governance costs:**

Examination/audit fee	16	-	-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-	-

**Other Outgoing Resources:**

Other Outgoing Resources:		-	-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-	-

*John Barr*  
*S. Bradley.*

*REV'D JOHN BARRON*  
*PCC Treasurer*  
*S. Bradley.*

*11/4/24.*

*11/10/24.*

**Independent Examiner's Report to the members of St Michael and all Angels Parish Church, Houghton le Spring, Parochial Church Council.**

I report on the annual accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023.

**Respective responsibilities of the PCC and Independent Examiner**

The members of the PCC consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

**Independent Examiner's Statement**

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention

1. which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; or
- to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records have not been met; or

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



Peter Brown, BA(Hons)

42 Coptleigh, Houghton le Spring, Tyne & Wear, DH5 8JE

10 April 2024

**SPACE4  
HOUGHTON LE SPRING**

**ANNUAL STATEMENT  
OF ACCOUNTS**

**1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2022**

**Accounts Prepared by  
Social Enterprise Acumen**

**Independent Examiner  
Mr Peter Brown**

**Space4  
76 Newbottle Street  
Houghton le Spring  
DH4 4GB**

## Space4 – Statement of Accounts as at 31 December 2023

Overall Receipts of £142,125 this compares to £123,721 last year.

1. A total of £132,516 of receipts was restricted and £9,610 unrestricted.
2. Grant funding of £116,059 was received which was made up of:
  - a. £92,643 - National Lottery Community Fund: Reaching Communities/Partnerships
  - b. £23,416 - Grants Other
3. Donations of £8,822 were received with a further £4,200 coming from our PCC main funds, Gift Aid produced income of £1,883.
4. Sales of produce generated income of £8,818 and a further £2,343 was raised through fundraising.

Overall Payments of £162,555 which compares to £106,123 last year.

1. Staff salaries totalled £75,027 with sessional worker fees totalling £17,628.
2. Building rent were £14,730 with £5,705 costs for utilities and overheads.
3. Product costs for food distributed were £26,602.
4. A total of £5,584 was spent on developing our buildings and £2,428 on equipment.
5. Staff and volunteer expenses were £4,416 with a further £1,975 spent on office costs and training.
6. Professional fees of £8,461 were spent for bookkeeping, accountancy, payroll, HR and marketing.

Our balance at the beginning of the year was £114,429 and at the end of the year £93,999; £45,765 of which is restricted funds and £48,234 unrestricted.



## Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	01/01/2023		31/12/2023

### Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Donations	6,698	2,124	-	8,822	6,759
PCC Grant		4,200	-	4,200	4,200
Other Grants		116,059	-	116,059	103,002
Fundraising	1,029	1,315	-	2,343	191
Sales		8,818	-	8,818	9,569
Gift Aid	1,883		-	1,883	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>9,610</b>	<b>132,516</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>142,125</b>	<b>123,721</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>9,610</b>	<b>132,516</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>142,125</b>	<b>123,721</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Staff Salaries		75,027	-	75,027	46,391
Sessional Workers		17,628	-	17,628	11,007
Rent		14,730	-	14,730	9,556
Utilities and Overheads		5,705	-	5,705	6,236
Product Costs		26,602	-	26,602	19,193
Expenses		4,416	-	4,416	5,377
Transport		-	-	-	120
Food and Consumables		-	-	-	1,182
Equipment		2,428	-	2,428	2,409
Office Costs & Training		1,975	-	1,975	72
Professional Fees		8,461	-	8,461	4,580
Building Development		5,584	-	5,584	
Other		-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>162,555</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>162,555</b>	<b>106,123</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>162,555</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>162,555</b>	<b>106,123</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>9,610</b>	<b>- 30,040</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>- 20,430</b>	<b>17,598</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>			-	-	-
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>38,624</b>	<b>75,805</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>114,429</b>	<b>96,831</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>48,234</b>	<b>45,765</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>93,999</b>	<b>114,429</b>

## Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Bank Account 33254356	46,258	45,765	-
	PayPal Statement	1,858		-
	Petty Cash	118		-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>48,234</b>	<b>45,765</b>	<b>-</b>

(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))

OK

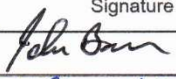

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

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

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	JOHN JOHN BARRON	11/11/24
	S. Bradley	11/09/24

CCXX R2 accounts (SS)

19/03/2024

# Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts

Report to the Management Committee of Space 4 on the accounts for the year ended 31st. December 2023.

## Respective responsibilities of the Management Committee and Independent Examiner

The Management Committee are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

As the Independent Examiner, it is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts (under section 43(3)(a) of the Act);
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 43(7)(b) of the Act); and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

## Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

## Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
  - to keep accounting records
  - to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting recordshave not been met;
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Peter Brown BA(Hons.)  
42 Coptleigh, Houghton le Spring, DH5 8JE  
10 April 2024



**ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS  
HOUGHTON LE SPRING**

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF  
ACCOUNTS**

**1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2023**



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name  
**ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS HOUGHTON-LE-SPRING**

No (if any)

**Receipts and payments accounts**

**CC16a**

For the period from 01/01/2023 To 31/12/2023

**Section A Receipts and payments**

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Voluntary Income	79,359	124,126		203,485	194,410
Income from Trading and Activities	27,425	8,818		36,243	43,523
Investment Income	125			125	158
Other				-	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>106,909</b>	<b>132,944</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>239,853</b>	<b>238,091</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
Asset Sales	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>106,909</b>	<b>132,944</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>239,853</b>	<b>238,091</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Cost of Generating Income	12,885	94		12,979	45,311
Church and Project Activities	63,267	162,517		225,784	115,876
Facilities Costs	29,044			29,044	41,153
Professional Fees				-	4,580
Other				-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>105,196</b>	<b>162,611</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>267,807</b>	<b>206,921</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
Asset purchases	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>105,196</b>	<b>162,611</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>267,807</b>	<b>206,921</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>1,713</b>	<b>- 29,667</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>- 27,954</b>	<b>31,170</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>			<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>70,517</b>	<b>101,177</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>171,694</b>	<b>140,524</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>72,230</b>	<b>71,510</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>143,740</b>	<b>171,694</b>

## Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Bank Account - Church	23,996	25,745	-
	Bank Account 33254356	46,258	45,765	-
	PayPal Statement	1,858		-
	Petty Cash	118		-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>72,230</b>	<b>71,510</b>	<b>-</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

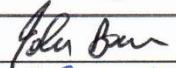

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

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

CCXX R2 accounts (SS)

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	REVD JOHN BARRON	11/4/24
	S. Bradley	11/04/24

## **Report on church buildings & fabric**

During the year we were plagued with water ingress in the south aisle. As there were roofers working on the Kepier Hall roof, I asked them if they could take a look. When we did, it was obvious that the north gutter of the south aisle roof was completely blocked by weeds and they agreed to do the work and also offered to fix the down comer. Due to there not being easy access, they had to arrange scaffolding and the actual work was done in a morning and has fixed the leaks.

Over time lights loose their luminescence and it was becoming obvious that the choir vestry was in need of an upgrade. Alex Scullion agreed to source suitable fitting and have them installed. The results are a great improvement and we can all see to read easily. At the time it was realised that the lights in the east chancel were also in need of an upgrade and George Peebles arranged for that and also the separate lights for the High Altar.

At sometime the glass in the entrance door of Church was broken, probably by someone pushing at it. I contacted Iona Glass who repair church glazing and as they were working on a job in Washington, they sent a glazier who repaired it with amazing skill, so that there is no evidence of a repair.

Every five years we must have a quinquennial survey carried out by a recognised Church Architect. Geoffrey Purves carried out our last one in 2019, and then retired. His final recommendation was that we had a survey of the Church windows carried out. Iona Glass agreed to carry out the survey which they did one day in August. The report which was produced has been circulated to the PCC and the work which was identified as urgent has been authorised to be done.

As I mentioned that our previous architect had retired, I set about recruiting a new one. The Diocesan Advisory Committee have a list of suitable architects and I began contacting them. I started with the nearest, but he responded that he was fully committed and could not take on any more work. The second did not reply to my invitation, but the third Michael Atkinson agreed to come to Church for an informal discussion. We met up and walked around outside and inside the building. He was impressed with the re-ordering that we had done and liked the way the Church worked.

We asked him if he would be willing to take on the role and what his fee would be to carry out our Quinquennial survey. The pricing structure is suggested by the DAC and we have accepted his proposal.

***Alastair Bradley***

## **Safeguarding Report**

We continue to operate to the values and principles set out in the Parish Safeguarding Policy. Consideration and assessment of any actual or perceived safeguarding risks is given to all activities across the Church to ensure all participants are safe and protected.

The safeguarding training programme for PCC members, community outreach programmes and church activities continue.

DBS checks are up to date for salaried staff and church officers, and a programme of renewal is in place for all existing volunteers and staff.

A new Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) was appointed in January 2024. Using the online Safeguarding Dashboard, they are currently undertaking a review of safeguarding practice and procedures in line with the parish safeguarding policy.

A number of safeguarding issues have been reported in the last year. In line with our safeguarding policy, all incidents / issues are recorded by appropriate officers and are reviewed and monitored accordingly by the Church and the Diocese. Where appropriate, action plans are put in place and these are reviewed and regularly updated.

### **Chester-le- Street and Houghton Deanery Synod report**

Since the last report there has been only one Deanery Synod. This was held on the 27<sup>th</sup> September 2023. The Revd Simon Spencer opened the meeting with prayer. There was a requirement for Committee Officers to be elected. The following Officers were duly elected:-

Simon Wilkinson-elected as Lay Chair

Marilyn Besford – elected as Deputy Lay Chair

Andrew Cresswell stepped down as Deanery Secretary. Simon Wilkinson agreed to act as Secretary for this Synod.

Appointments of Diocesan Synod representatives:-

Clergy - Christine Britcliffe, Tim Wall, Nick Barr-Hamilton

Laitly - Simon Wilkinson, Lucy Barr-Hamilton, Margaret Whitely,

Finance and Guided pledges.

It was felt that the current guided pledge was not equitable between parishes and did not equate fairly to the income and expenditure of the working parish. Recent adjustments to the formula have resulted in increases in guided pledges for Churches with significant reserves. However, it was stated that some expenses for smaller Churches were equivalent with larger buildings which would impact on the number of clergy posts. It was also stated that Church attendances were still down on pre-Covid numbers and that income was becoming harder to predict. Also, larger Churches had more outgoings so basing pledges on income is not straightforward. Revd John stated that

Parishes unable to meet their guided pledges would be contacted by the Diocese's Generous Giving team.

Vacancies - St. John's, Birtley have commenced their vacancy audit , Holy Trinity Washington are coming to the end of their audit. St. Matthew's Newbottle are working in collaboration with St. Michael and All Angels, Houghton and St. Michael and All Angels, Easington Lane.

There was news from various Parishes. Representatives from St. George's, Fatfield, Maureen Killick, Hope Family Church, Oxclose, Christ Church, Great Lumley, Holy Trinity, Washington and Holy Trinity, High Usworth, all gave reports.

The next Deanery Synod was due to meet on the 16th January 2024 at Holy Trinity Church, High Usworth but was cancelled. Parish representatives were informed via an email from Simon Wilkinson, the Synod Lay Chair, on the 15th. January. The reason given was because of illness and IT issues. People were also informed that the Revd. John Lintern would be in touch soon to re-arrange the Synod.

This concludes the Deanery Synod report.

***David Hann, Dian Scott, Susan Elsey***

## REPORTS FROM THE CHURCH

Prepared for the

### 2024 Annual Parochial Meeting

#### Churchwardens' Report.

2023 has been a busy year for Rita, Simon and myself but as in all things "Hard Work is its Own Reward!" To ease our load we welcomed Brian Scott as a Deputy Warden at the APCM.

#### Sabbaticals

Rector Tim at Saint Michael's Easington Lane had a Sabbatical in the early part of 2023. Overall this had little impact upon us but Rector John was on hand to offer advice and support.

After Easter Rector John left on his Sabbatical!

"During the time of the incumbent's absence the Church Wardens are responsible for the running of the Church and the maintenance of order in the Church Yard! "

We were left in the safe hands of Bob Cooper our Archdeacon, who took services on two Sundays and arranged for visiting Ministers to officiate where necessary. Also Bishop Paul took a Sunday Service, which was heart-warming as he had announced his retirement the next year. We knew we were in the safe hands of Judith and Margaret, our retired Ministers, who stepped up and ensured the smooth running of services, as well as baptisms, funerals and weddings - not forgetting Claire, and also our Lay Readers Anne, Ros and Sue, who also played their part.

#### The daily opening of Church

The daily opening of the Church is now seen as normal. For our volunteers who steward the building through the day, the regulars popping in for a "cuppa" and the small but significant number of visitors walking in to visit the church make the effort worthwhile. Once again we are very grateful to the stewards. Thank you all and we would love to have more people to spread the load.

#### Unseen Work

During the later part of the year Simon Hardy has busied himself by painting the two vestry doors, which are now a resplendent black, and also he cleaned all the brass in Church, a task that has been neglected recently. It is an unseen task that people have done for years but since Covid, has been neglected. We all owe Simon our thanks.

#### Houghton Feast

This year's Feast was as enjoyable as the previous years. The versatility of the building was demonstrated and I am grateful to the people who gave up their time to move pews and catered for all the events that we hosted - from a Farmers' Market on Saturday to a performance by award winning Houghton Brass on Wednesday night, which sold out!

#### Remembrance Day.

The Remembrance Day Garden, where we place rows of small wooden crosses to represent the fallen from our region, has become part of our culture and this year was appreciated by many people. The Remembrance Day service itself was very well supported and Houghton Brass both played hymns during the service and led the parade into Church and afterwards through Newbottle Street.

### Services over Christmas

Once again all of our scheduled services catered for all needs. The Rector, Margaret, Judith, Claire, Ros, Anne, Sue and George worked very hard to achieve a wonderful variety of services that fulfilled and uplifted us all. Many, many thanks for all their hard work.

### Thank You

To the dedicated people who act as sides people throughout the year, turning up on time and welcoming worshippers with a smile and helping the smooth-running of our services. We always need more people to act in this important role. If you feel you can help, please let any of the wardens know and we'll tell you what the job entails and fit you in with an experienced sides person.

We all owe a great deal of appreciation to everyone who has contributed to the events of the past year and our report wouldn't be complete without a list of thanks: to George Peebles our Director of Music, Andy Slater our quiet and much appreciated deputy organist and Stuart Clappison who provides music on the guitar. To Angela Slater, our PCC Secretary, much of whose excellent work goes unseen as does that of our Treasurer Sue Bradley. To Philippa Eley, who runs our Church Office and performs many other tasks to keep things running smoothly. To David Turnbull and Paul Armour our Verger and Assistant Verger. To the excellent teams of willing helpers who keep the church clean, arrange the flowers and provide music for our services. To the Next 900 team, those providing coffee and refreshments week by week, the team working with the Creche and Young Church, the Welcomers, Lay Readers, Pastoral Assistants, the stalwarts of our Church Choir...the list goes on and apologies if we've missed some...but to all, many thanks.

Sincerely we could not have managed without you. Thank You.

***Rita Turnbull, Alastair Bradley, Simon Hardy and Brian Scott***

### Open the Book

We have recently restarted our Open the Book visits into Burnside School. It has been so good to be able to read Bible stories and act out scenes with the children. We currently have two teams of three people each but would love to expand our numbers to make more teams so we could take the Bible stories into other schools. If it's something you feel you might like to do, we would be pleased to hear from you to explain exactly what is involved.

**Rita Turnbull**

## **Flower Guild**

Thank you to all who sponsor the flower pedestals and make contributions towards the flowers. The cost of the flowers has risen, like all other things, and your kind donations help to make sure that we can add to the beauty of the Church.

If you would like to sponsor a pedestal arrangement at any time of the year (other than Lent or Advent), the sign-up list is on the notice board at the back of Church.

***Carole Cunningham***

## **Hand-Bells**

The group started to meet up in the autumn to practise in preparation for Advent and Christmas services, with one new recruit. We were pleased to be able to play at the Advent Carol Service and on Christmas Eve, and many of the congregation said how much they had enjoyed hearing the bells.

If you would like to join our happy little band please get in touch.

***Carole Cunningham***

## **Space4 Annual Report 2023**

### **Summary**

The past year has seen a number of challenges, not least the resignation of both the Operations Manager and Hub & Events Coordinator over the summer, and the refurbishment of the library upstairs from our Hub. The extended bus strike also impacted on footfall as many of our service users are reliant on public transport and were therefore unable to access Space4 during this period.

Despite all these challenges, Space4 staff and volunteers have worked together as a team to continue to offer the local community a safe and welcoming environment, access to free or low cost food and support to access other services.

There have also been some incredible highlights over the past year, not least celebrating our 10<sup>th</sup> birthday in October. We hosted events to commemorate both the Queen's funeral and King's Coronation and held a '200<sup>th</sup>' birthday party for two members of our Cake and Chat group who both turned 100. This attracted the attention of local media and was a huge success. Other highlights include leading the Houghton Feast parade with our new Space4 banner and having staff and volunteers speak on stage at the Tyne & Wear Citizens Delegates Assembly.

We ended the year with our new manager starting in post and the appointment of a new Hub Coordinator, whilst Jade, our community and children's work coordinator, welcomed her new daughter on January 1<sup>st</sup>, just one week after going on maternity leave!

### **Creatively addressing food poverty**

We started the year with the completion of our new kitchen and registration with the local authority to be able to serve hot food. We were delighted to be awarded a 5\* food hygiene rating, thanks to the hard work of Megan, our Food Coordinator. This has enabled us to offer meals in the Hub— we

have gradually increased the days we serve and now offer a brunch service Wednesdays-Fridays with both a donation based offer and a low cost offer.

Our community foodstore is open two days per week (Tuesdays and Fridays 10-12) and is supporting an average of 55 households every month equating to 140 unique individuals (adults and children). We have made several changes to the operation of the foodstore over the past year, including moving to a points based system and the introduction of a membership card system to help people budget. Our meal deal kits have proved very popular – for example, at Christmas we offered both a family size and single person Christmas Dinner meal kit.

Our Foodstore served a cumulative total of 1937 households in 2023, representing 3043 adults and 1825 children, whilst we served 651 meals within the Hub (excluding Tuesday Treat & Christmas events).

### **Responding to isolation**

Our drop in sessions continue to be at the heart of our offer to the local community, offering a safe space for people to come and meet friends, old and new, and get support where needed. We offer a drop in service 6 days per week alongside our well established Cake and Chat group for the elderly, twice weekly Craft group and monthly Bereavement group. We secured funding from the local authority to offer extended hours over the winter months and to host some themed workshops.

Our children's work has continued to grow and develop with our weekly Tuesday Treat and twice weekly Toddlers sessions. We were able to secure funding from Sunderland City Council to run additional activities in the school holidays and ran some trips and special events over the summer which were accessed by a total of 73 children. We also had sell out parties at both Halloween and Christmas.

December was extremely busy with lots of festive events and parties. Highlights included a Christingle service followed by refreshments back in the Hub, Cake and Chat Christmas party, Toddlers parties and a children's party on 23<sup>rd</sup> complete with Santa's grotto. We were also able to hold our annual lunch on Christmas Day which was attended by 43 people with transport provided for 16 who would otherwise have been unable to attend.

Our drop in has seen a total footfall of 7037 people over the year. Tuesday Treat has had a footfall of 691 children and 519 adults, with an additional 727 accessing school holiday activities, whilst Toddlers has had 1062 children and 1156 adults.

### **Challenging inequalities**

We officially signed up to become members of Tyne & Wear Citizens at the end of 2022 which enabled members of our community to attend a two day training course to introduce them to the principles and methodology of Community Organising.

Over the course of the year we have engaged in a number of group and one to one conversations to hear first-hand what local residents' concerns and issues are. On a local level, issues were raised around the cost of uniform, specifically for Kepier school, and issues with the new supplier which led to us arranging a meeting with Kepier to discuss this with them. As a result of this initial

meeting, a member of the team is now going to have termly meetings to develop that relationship with the school and proactively resolve issues around uniform.

The cost of living and housing were two issues that were identified through our listening as important to local residents. Staff and volunteers went along to the Citizens Delegates Assembly in November to speak about these issues and vote for the regional priority campaigns for 2024. It was great to see that their voices were heard as these were two of the chosen priorities, alongside racism in education.

We continue to be involved in the regional action groups on these issues and work will continue throughout 2024 as we prepare for important elections on a local, regional and national level.

***Justine Merton-Scott***

### **St. Michael and All Angels Toddler Group**

The toddler group re-opened on 1.5.2022 after a two year absence due to Covid.

As a new member of the team, I was delighted that some of the staff who had previously volunteered decided to come back. Their experience and knowledge has been invaluable and helped me to settle in to my new role. I would also like to say that all of the volunteers at team toddlers are amazing and I could not run the toddler group without them.

The toddler group has grown and currently has approximately 50 children attending over the two sessions.

We cater for all ages/stages and abilities. Children with SEND are very welcome to attend as we are an inclusive group. The toys available to the children change each week and include, construction toys, problem solving toys, role-play, books, messy play, small world, large toys and our lovely slide which is always a favourite with the children. Through the activities provided children use their brains to problem solve, their hands to develop their fine motor skills and the large toys to develop their gross motor skills. Through the use of role play children's imagination is encouraged. The art and craft table provides the children with the opportunity to work with their parents/carers. All the activities provided help the children to develop holistically.

Some of the children who attend are on the pathway to being diagnosed with Autism. The parents keep me informed of their progress. It's nice that they feel they are able to confide in me. Many parents/carers confide other issues in me and the rest of the staff. I always tell parents/carers that if they need any help at all to speak to me or one of the other staff and I make it clear that we are there to support them.

I recently asked parents/carers if there was anything we did not provide that they would like. One response was to have the refreshments available throughout the session. This was acted upon and we have received lots of good feedback. This also provides the opportunity for parents/ carers to interact with each other while they sit around the refreshment tables provided.

The children's Christmas parties were a huge success with many families attending.

Some comments from parents/carers.

"Happy for him to come here, it's great".

"Nice today as the heating is on and nice to have the music". (I have bought a nursery rhyme CD to play throughout the session).

" You're all brilliant, Reuben loves coming here".

Nana said to Cameron who is 2. "Say bye to Susan".  
Cameron "Bye, I've had a lovely time".

**Susan Watson**

### **Liturgical Choir Report**

Another busy year for the choir which has led our church's big events: Feast services, Remembrance Sunday, and our Advent and Christmas Carol Services, all of which were well supported.

Our annual Summer Concert was a wonderful event and well supported with a large audience. A big thank you to all you performed. I would like to thank Laura and the Gilpin Singers, together with Graham Brown for accompanying the performers on the piano.

We are blessed to have musicians to help with the music especially Stuart Clappison and Andy Slater playing at our first Sunday holy communion and 'Engage' services. Andy also plays at our Thursday holy communion each week. It was very sad to lose Tom Ritson. He was a great help to me and the church, playing at funerals and also for our Thursday holy communion service.

I would like to thank the choir for their commitment and support. A big thank you to Nikki who has taken on the role of conducting the choir for our special services and for concerts. We are always looking and hoping for new members of the choir to maintain our choral tradition. You will be welcome, no matter how much commitment you can give.

I would like to say a thank you to Rector John for his support and encouragement to maintain our great music tradition at St Michael's.

**George Peebles, Director of Music**

### **Young Church**

We are currently running sessions alongside the main eucharist at 10am in the meeting room which allows us to share our activities with the congregation at the end of the service. We still have a regular group of 4 or 5 children taking part each Sunday.

At present we follow the Gospel stories in church planning from Sermons 4 kids and other useful resources that support the children's faith journey each week. Alongside this, each week worksheets, word searches and colouring materials are available for any children who may want to take part. These activities follow the Gospel story theme in church.

As well as completing tasks/activities each session the children have also taken a role in the 'all age' worship in church each month where the children help with the sermon, take part in the offertory procession, choose the music and the older children support in giving communion. This continues to be an inclusive service and has proved very successful with children of all ages through to the adult congregation!

A huge thank you to Philippa, Janine and Jade who have taken more of an active role in running and supporting sessions, and sessions are covered on the monthly rota.

If anyone knows of any primary aged school children who would enjoy hearing a bible story and then making a craft, please feel free to invite them along.

**Clare Taylor - Young Church Leader**

### **'Light' Bereavement Group.**

Light has continued to meet monthly; the first Tuesday of the month at 1.15pm-2.30pm. Our numbers fluctuate depending on members' other commitments, the important issue being that we are always there for them. We continue to receive members who have been attending over the years, as well as welcoming newly bereaved. The group may have a general conversation with regard to recent difficult times or events coming up on the horizon, or they may focus on a particular aspect of bereavement experience prompted by one of Tom Gordon's evocative stories. The value of the bereavement group comes in their collective experience and support for each other. It is reassuring to new members to find they are not alone on their journey, and they are perfectly normal, coping well despite the gaping hole inside.

***Margaret Lee***

### **Signpost**

Signpost continues to provide the congregation and wider community with two way feedback on all issues relating to our church, St Michaels and All Angels. Still trying to shake off the legacy of the Pandemic, we are striving to get back to a kind of "normal" in which we can, together, share in our worship in church.

Aby assisted by the Rector, Ministry team, Churchwardens Rita and Alastair and our PCC, I continue to report on the events and activities that shape our month. My thanks to all who provide copy to the Signpost team, and especially our distribution group who deliver the magazine to your door.

***Malcolm Foster***

### **Gilpin Singers**

Laura Parkin continues to teach and inspire the ladies, who gain much from being members of the choir, and we thank her for her dedication to the choir. Our summer concert marked the 10th anniversary of the choir. The Reverend Francis Wilson, who originally formed the Gilpin Singers, sent us a special message for the concert, the ladies were all given a souvenir pen, and Prosecco and nibbles were served afterwards.

September was busy as we held a concert at St Michael's RC Church at which just over £2000 was raised for cancer charities! The very next day we also took part in the Late Summer Concert.

In December we had our Christmas concert, another successful evening, with mulled wine and mince pies being served in the interval. Unfortunately we couldn't accommodate everyone who requested tickets so at our forthcoming summer concert we are going to try out having a Saturday matinee followed by another on Wednesday evening.

We are grateful to Graham Brown for continuing to accompany the choir and also George Peebles for helping when requested. There is a lot of work that goes on behind the scenes, and thanks to all who contribute to that.

***Carole Cunningham***

## REPORTS FROM THE CHURCH AFFILIATED ORGANISATIONS

Prepared for the

### 2024 Annual Parochial Meeting

#### **2nd Houghton Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers**

We have very full units at the moment with 30 Rainbows, 29 Brownies, 22 Guides and 5 Rangers. We have had a very busy year with the units including: -

All units took part in the Houghton Feast Parade. We also paraded the flags at the Mothers' Day service and the Harvest Festival service in church. All units took part in the parade for Remembrance Day.

All the units attended the pantomime at the Sunderland Empire which was really enjoyed by all.

All units took part in the Uniformed Carol service in December. Each group did a little performance for the parents. We held a Christmas party prior to the Carol service.

#### **Rainbows**

Held a joint sleepover with the Brownies in 2023 with the theme of Easter.

We had a visit to Whitehouse Farm for our Summer Day out.

#### **Brownies**

Pack holiday which was two nights sleeps was held in the Kepier hall.

We have a sleepover planned at Beamish Museum in April. We will be sleeping in the Masonic Hall after a campfire with marshmallows. We will be spending all day Saturday looking around the museum and going home Sunday morning.

Brownies have a PGL holiday at Newby Wiske planned in May.

#### **Guides & Rangers**

We took 10 Guides and Rangers to Waddow Hall at Clitheroe in August for 5 days of outdoor activities. This was enjoyed by all the girls who attended.

In September we took the Brownies, Guides and Rangers to Flamingo Land to take part in the Flamingo Fling. This was a Girlguiding North East England event and had Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers from across the region. Our transport was paid with a donation from Sunderland Community chest.

Guides and Rangers held a sponsored walk from South Shields to Roker to raise money for their trip to York.

Guides and Rangers held a stall at the church Houghton Feast coffee morning and the church Christmas fair to raise funds for their trip to York.

The Guides and Rangers had a weekend in York in February, 21 girls attended. They visited the Chocolate museum, York dungeons, escape room, York bus tour and Harry Potter mini golf. The Guides stayed in the York Youth Hostel.

***Sheila Wynn***

## **The Friends of Houghton Hillside Cemetery 2023**

The committee resumed our meetings earlier in the year and started to organise litter picks and tidy-ups. Our website is being updated and is not available at present.

The weather this year has been against us at every opportunity, and our planned clean-ups have had to be cancelled. However we are grateful to members of our local community who have kept the place tidy.

We planned a big clean-up before Remembrance Day, but this had to be cancelled because of illness. Our AGM was held in Church on 19<sup>th</sup> October, and we welcomed Gareth Webb who introduced us to some of his historic family history.

For Remembrance Day, we laid a wreath at the Cenotaph at Church and one against the monument in the Cemetery. The War Graves Commission had cleaned the headstones in the cemetery prior to this and people have laid poppies and crosses on the graves.

We are looking forward to getting back to full swing in 2024!

***Alastair Bradley, Chair.***

## **Kepier Trust and Management Committee**

I am very pleased to report that the Kepier Hall, after a tough few years, is looking good and its users appear to be happy with the building and its surroundings.

Our caretaker/coordinator, Mr. Darren Snaith, has proved to be very versatile and has tackled lots of practical work during this last year, as well as restoring the upstairs flat for occupancy.

As expected, this ancient building demands a lot of attention and there are constantly problems with either plumbing, heating, or water ingress, to name but a few. We are exploring grant funding opportunities in the hope that we will be able to improve the energy efficiency of the building.

We are fortunate to have a wide diversity of clients using the building which reminds us of the original Constitution of the Kepier Trust: to serve the community of Houghton both for leisure activities and to meet the needs of the parish.

This last year we said a sad farewell to Mr. Ron Young, a Trustee of many years standing. His knowledge and experience were invaluable. We are very pleased to welcome Ron's daughter, Alison, who is a huge asset.

***Jean Henderson***

## **Friends of the Houghton Parish Church Trust**

The Friends Trust has had a successful year in 2023, being able to provide much needed funds for the fabric of the ancient Church of St. Michael's. We have been supported by dedicated members who have been with the Trust since its inauguration in 1993. Sadly this year we said

goodbye to three very dear friends who were ardent supporters. Unfortunately, the number of new members we have managed to gain is small compared to those we have lost.

The Trustees will have to think hard on how to recruit new members. It certainly was worth having a leaflet drop in 2019 when over 30 new members joined. This is a daunting task to organise and will need many helpers to target new houses in the area.

The Trustees have sanctioned expenditure by the P.C.C. to replace the stained glass windows protection throughout the church where it is required.

The Friends' musical weekend is scheduled for the beginning of May. Please look out for the details in the Signpost and in Church. If anyone can help with distributing posters, please let me know.

***Jean Henderson, Chair***

### **Mothers Union Report**

We had 41 members at the end of 2023, and a member of the clergy.

We have sadly lost Evelyn Curry, Emily Forrester, and Maureen Bainbridge.

It's been nice to see Emma Hyden managing to come back to meetings and events.

We welcomed 2 new members: Joan Cummings and Fiona Holmes.

Summary

We have 41 members:

1 member of clergy

7 indoor members

34 active members of which 25 attend meetings regularly.

In 2023 we have supported;

#### **Gillas Lane School**

Providing year 6 pupils with a school bag filled with toiletry items and stationery items to take with them to Kepier school.

We had a stall at the school summer fayre. MU Members were very generous with donations of toiletry items which we gave to families free of charge.

#### **Church**

We continue to send Baptism anniversary cards, and knitted teddies for children who are baptised.

#### **Refuge in Houghton**

We were able to purchase items of food and toiletry items for the refuge.

#### **Low Newton Prison**

We donated 21 shower gels to the prison.

## MU Monthly Programme 2023

January – held our AGM in the Kepier Hall

February – Ladies held an enjoyable meal at Homer Hill Farm Shop

March – We held an Easter service in church

April – We held a Coronation celebration in the Kepier Hall. Afternoon tea was provided by Ye Olde Stable tea shoppe with funding received by the Sunderland Coalfield. Entertainment was provided by the male voice choir. A great afternoon was held for all.

May – We held a beetle drive to raise funds for AFIA. We had a cupcake and cup of tea or coffee.

June – We had an exciting outing to South Causey Inn for lunch.

July – We held our annual strawberry tea and played bingo

September – We held our pie and peas harvest lunch in the Kepier Hall

October – Kate Welch from the Old Rectory came to talk about the wonderful work they have achieved since setting up the charity.

Fair at Houghton Feast coffee morning.

November – Kathleen Wilson came to talk about the Mothers Union branch that has been set up in Low Newton prison.

December – We held an Advent service in church followed by mince pies and refreshments. We had a three course Christmas meal at The Bistro with 22 ladies attending. The table was set for Christmas and the meal was enjoyed by everyone.

***Joan Beattie, Branch Leader***

# St Michael & All Angels, The Church of England in Houghton-le-Spring

Find us at



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[stmichaels.hls@gmail.com](mailto:stmichaels.hls@gmail.com)



<https://bit.ly/supportStM>

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# Accounts

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St Michael & All Angels  
Houghton-le-Spring

# ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING 2023

Sunday 26th March  
11.15 am





**St Michael & All Angels Parish Church, Houghton-le-Spring**  
**Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church Meeting**  
**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

**AGENDA**

**MEETING OF PARISHIONERS:**

1. **Prayers**
2. **Apologies** for Absence
3. **Minutes** of meeting held on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2022
4. **Election** of Church Wardens

**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING:**

1. **Minutes** of Meeting held on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2022 and matters arising.
2. **Notification** of any other items of business
3. **Electoral Roll Report and Parish Statistics**
4. **Rector's Report**
5. **Presentation of Annual Report for 2023**
  - Annual Accounts, Treasurer's Reports, Independent Examiner's Report
  - Church Wardens' Reports and Fabric Reports
  - Deanery Synod Report
  - PCC Secretary's Report
  - Safeguarding Report
  - Reports from the Church Affiliated Organisations
6. **Elections** Assistant Church Wardens; Parochial Church Council Members; Deanery Synod Members
7. **Appointments** Electoral Roll Officer; Gift Aid Officer; Sidespersons; Independent Examiner of Church Accounts; PCC Representation for Readers and Pastoral Assistants
8. **'Looking forward'** by the Rector
9. **Any other business**

*There will be an initial meeting of the PCC immediately after the APCM, to appoint Church Officers (Secretary, Treasurer, Vice Chair, Safeguarding Officer) and agree date of next PCC.*

## **Minutes of the 98th Annual Meeting of Parishioners**

### **ST. MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS PARISH CHURCH, HOUGHTON-LE-SPRING**

**Sunday 15th May 2022**

In attendance

Priest-in-Charge Reverend John Barron, Curate John D'Silva and Parishioners, either physically present in Church or present virtually on Zoom/dial-in.

1. The Rector welcomed everyone – those in Church, those on Zoom - to the meeting. He commented that the Annual Report had been made available on-line, and that some hard copies were available in Church. Additional hard copies could be obtained from the Parish Administrator.
2. The Rector opened the meeting in prayer.
3. Apologies for absence were received from Reverend Margaret Lee, Jean Henderson, Thelma Steele, George Peebles and Angela Slater.
4. The Minutes of the meeting held on Sunday 16th May 2021, having been circulated, were taken as read. They were confirmed and signed.
5. **Election of Church Wardens**

The Rector gave thanks to the Church Wardens and the Standing Committee for their work over the past year.

The Rector had received two nominations for the office of Church Warden: Rita Turnbull and Alastair Bradley. Both Rita and Alastair were elected unanimously to serve as Church Wardens until the 2023 APCM. They were thanked and congratulated.

**This concluded the meeting of Parishioners**

## Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2022

23 parishioners attended. Those present had had access to a copy of the 2022 Annual Report (covering 2021-22), either on-line or in hard copy. The Rector guided them through the Report as follows.

1. **The Minutes** of the previous APCM, held on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2021, having been circulated, were taken as read. They were unanimously accepted and were signed as a true record. There were no matters arising.
2. **Other items of business** – the Bishop’s Visitation for the swearing in of our Church Wardens will take place on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2022.
3. **Electoral Roll and Parish Statistics**
  - a) **Electoral Roll** – the current number on the Electoral Roll is 123. 20 people had joined the Electoral Roll since last year, but 14 have left or, sadly, are deceased. Typically, the Electoral Roll grows as the year progresses.
  - b) **Parish Statistics** – the Rector highlighted some of the key statistics. There has been a small increase (from 124 to 132) in the size of our worshipping community. Parish statistics continue to reflect the impact of the pandemic. Alongside those who worship in Church, others access our on-line worship, even as Covid restrictions have been lifted.

### 4. Rector’s Report

The Rector delivered his Report, found on pages 7-11 of the 2022 Annual Report. There were no questions. The Report was accepted unanimously.

### 5. Presentation of Annual Report for 2021

#### a) Annual Accounts, Treasurer’s Reports, Independent Examiner’s Reports

- The Rector observed that these important reports are the statutory element of the Annual Report.
- The papers were presented by Treasurer SB. There were no questions for the Treasurer.
- The Accounts were accepted unanimously, as were the Treasurer’s reports and the Independent Examiner’s report (proposed MF, seconded RT).

The Rector then referred the meeting to the following reports:

#### b) Church Wardens’ Reports and Fabric Report

#### c) Deanery Synod report

#### d) PCC Secretary’s report

#### e) Safeguarding Report

There were no questions regarding the above reports.

#### f) Reports from Church Affiliated organisations

The Rector commented that these reports paint a picture of what happens in the Church community week by week. He thanked those who work so hard to enable the many activities and meetings to flourish.

The Meeting voted to accept Reports a) – f) and the Annual Report in its entirety (proposed Susan Wilde, seconded Sheila Foster).

## 6. Appointments and Elections

- a) In the past, there had been a representative for APA's (Authorised Pastoral Assistants) and Readers, traditionally an Ordained Minister. ?? had expressed willingness to fulfil this role with effect from the 2022 APCM and was duly appointed (proposed John Wilde, seconded Susan Wilde).
- b) There had been one nomination for the role of Assistant Church Warden: Thelma Steele. Thelma was duly elected Assistant Church Warden.
- c) There were four vacancies for the PCC. Four nominations had been received. Kathleen Close was elected for one year (2022-3); Lynne Scott, Simon Hardy and Sue Elsey were elected for three years (2022-25).
- d) Appointments
  - (1) Electoral Roll Officer – Rita Turnbull
  - (2) Gift Aid Officer – Susan Bradley
  - (3) Ministry Team Representative – Reverend Margaret Lee
  - (4) Choral and Music Director – George Peebles
  - (5) Independent Examiner – Peter Brown
  - (6) Sidespersons – see list on page 6 of Annual Report, with the addition of Susan Wilde, John Wilde, Bob Wyle, Joan Finlayson.

## 7. 'Looking Forward' by the Rector

'Another challenging year but we have done so much to flourish as a community and I am so incredibly impressed and so thankful to God for the people of the church here.

In the past I've used the picture of a sailing boat to describe the journey we're on – we've set out on a journey seeking to navigate to God's preferred and promised future for us for the church in these times. We're navigating our boat in the way God is giving us energy to move in, just as the wind powers a sailing boat.

There may be times in the year ahead when we will be changing direction. Sometimes a change of direction can be a dramatic change.

There may be changes to ministry here as we navigate taking on a group ministry in the year ahead and that might feel quite challenging to us.

As we seek to encourage growth in our church as we work out how to support our communities facing increasingly challenging times, all of this might involve change for us.

We do so, though, confident that God is with us: has been in our past, is working in our present and will be in the future.

It continues to be a privilege to be spiritual leader of St Michael and All Angels church here in Houghton-le-Spring and I give thanks to God for the people of this place and all we do to seek to forward God's purposes.'

8. **Any Other Business** – none. The meeting closed with the Grace at 12.08 pm

*Immediately after the meeting, there was a brief meeting of the newly elected PCC, at which the following appointments were made:*

*Treasurer – Sue Bradley*

*Safeguarding Officer – Kevin Bond*

*Secretary – Angela Slater*

*[Vice Chair of the PCC – vacant]*

## Parochial Church Council 2022-23

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical, as well as the maintenance and upkeep of the ancient building. The PCC meets monthly throughout the year and may hold extraordinary meetings as and when they are required.

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

The Standing Committee of the PCC is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the PCC. The Standing Committee consists of the Rector, Church Wardens, Assistant Wardens, Treasurer and Secretary.

During the past year, the following served as members of the PCC:

<b>Incumbent</b>	Reverend John Barron
<b>Church Wardens</b>	Rita Turnbull, Alastair Bradley
<b>Treasurer, Gift Aid Officer</b>	Sue Bradley
<b>Secretary</b>	Angela Slater
<b>Safeguarding Officer</b>	Kevin Bond
<b>Readers' Representative</b>	Sue Elsey
<b>Deanery Synod Representatives</b>	David Hann, Dian Scott, Kevin Bond Term of Office 2020-23
<b>Elected members</b>	Kathleen Close – Term of Office 2022-23 Lynne Scott, Dave Fulton, Simon Hardy, Revd Margaret Lee Term of Office 2022-25
	Sheila Foster, David Turnbull Term of Office 2021-24
	Malcolm Foster, Brian Scott, Clare Taylor Term of Office 2020-23
<b>Co-opted members</b>	George Peebles (Director of Music)

For the first months of the past PCC year, Thelma Steele served as Assistant Church Warden, as she had done in previous years, alongside the countless other ways in which she cheerfully and creatively served the community of St Michael and All Angels. Thelma's death in June was a tremendous sadness for us all, and she will be greatly missed.

### Sidespersons

Joan Beattie  
Elaine Harkness  
Dian Scott  
John Wilde

Sheila Gamble  
Jean Henderson  
David Turnbull  
Susan Wilde

Evelyn Garbutt  
Brian Scott  
Rita Turnbull  
Bob Wile

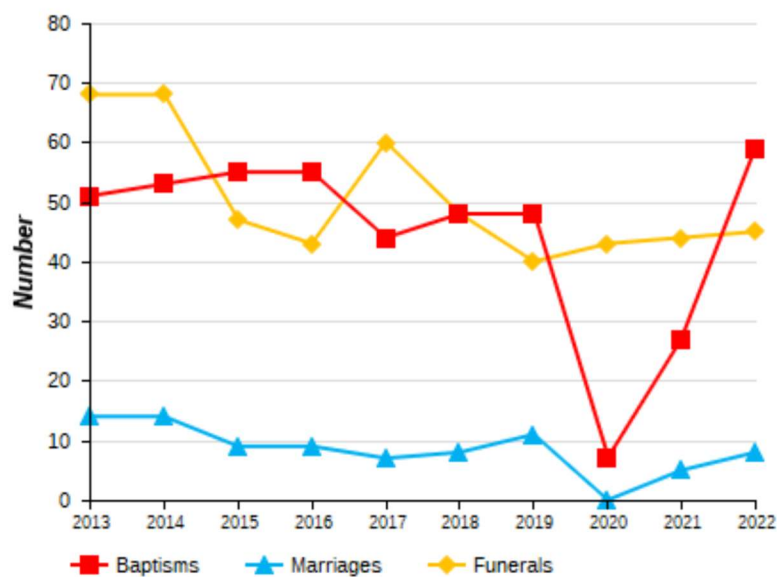
## A Year in Numbers: some facts and figures from our Mission Statistics

The number of parishioners on the Electoral Roll was 125, this is a slight reduction on last year's figure of 131. Our 'Worshipping Community' (those who regularly come to church, at least every 2 months) is currently at 132 people, shown in the table below. We had 14 people join us in the year but also 18 who sadly are no longer worshipping with us. This includes some dearly loved members of our church family who died during the year. This also includes a number of families with children who are no longer part of our worshipping community. Increasing numbers of our worshipping community are part of our 'church at home' who we stay in touch with and visit with home services of worship or who access worship on-line (21 people).

### Worshipping Community

Age	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
0-17	34	40	53	11	8	15	11
18-69	148	167	37	66	59	61	59
70+	87	88	170	66	57	56	58

Reporting of figures for 'Usual Sunday Attendance' (USA) was suspended in 2020 & 21 because of the pandemic. In 2019 on a 'usual' Sunday we had 93 adults and 5 children attending a number of different worship services in church. Immediately after the pandemic on returning to church this figure was just over 20 attending a single service in the church building. In 2021, following a 'season of invitation' this number was over 50. Since then, we have continued a slow upward trend and USA is now 79 across 3 services (74 adults and 5 children). This is still lower than the numbers of people attending before the pandemic – it does not include our 'church at home' people. In addition we have upwards of 20 people attending mid-week services on Tuesday and Thursday.

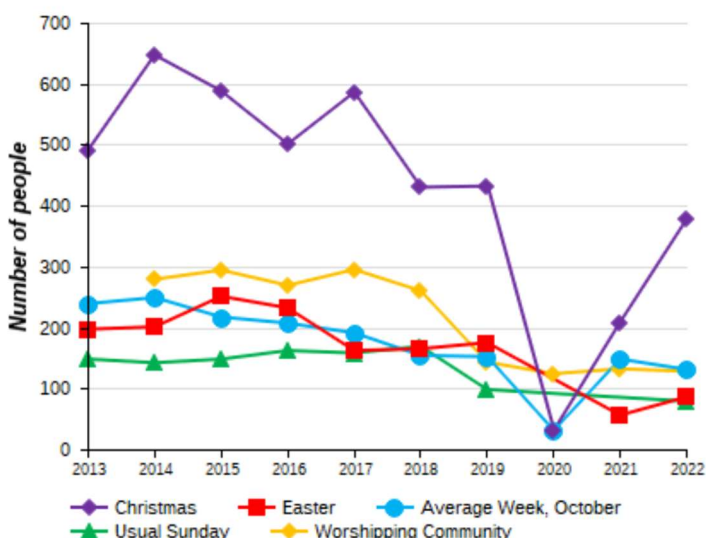


We continue to serve our community through funeral ministry: we conducted 45 funeral services last year (compared with 44 in 2021, 43 in 2020, 40 in 2019).

We have significant numbers of people coming back to us for other 'occasional offices'. Last year there 59 baptisms in our church (27 in 2021, 7 in 2020 and 48 in 2019). This included 17 children in the age range 1-4 and 11 adults. We had 5 adults and 3 children from our church confirmed last year and 3 children admitted to Communion.

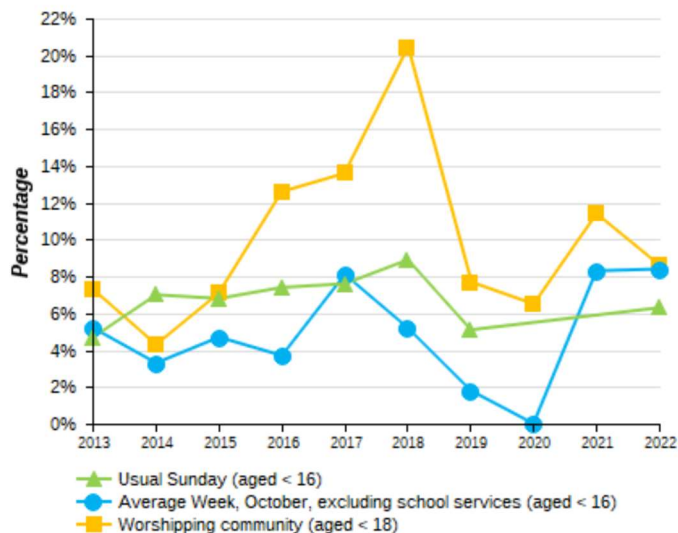
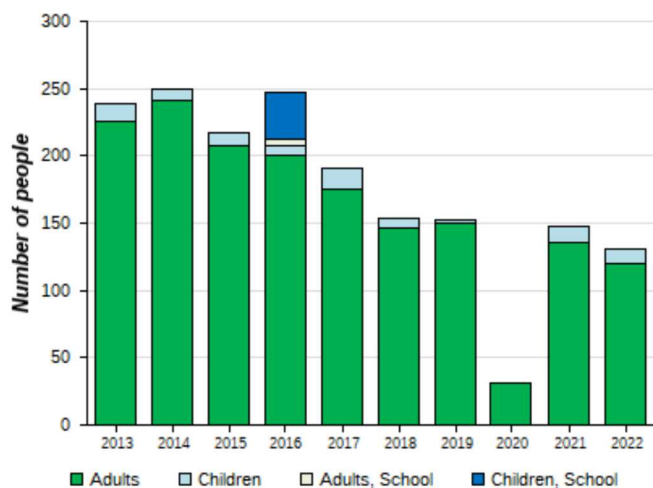
We held 8 weddings & blessings of marriage (we did 5 in 2021, none in 2020 and 11 in 2019).

We had significant numbers of people coming to worship with us for seasonal services in December: 377 people came to services on Christmas Day and Christmas Eve (this compares with 208 in 2021, 30 in 2020 and 432 in 2019). There were 86 people worshipping with us on Easter day last year (compared to 56 in 2021, none in 2020 & 175 in 2019).



Numbers attending regular and season services are down around 15-20% of numbers pre-pandemic. We have had to work hard to keep the reduction to (only) this level.

Our average weekly attendance figures in October was 131. This was down on numbers last year and in 2019 (148 & 152 respectively). This figure is deceptive as we have civic, parade and invitation services that are very dependent on external factors. It does include a legitimate reduction in numbers including some children through our merging our 'Sparks' family service into a combined 'All age Communion'. In addition to the people who worship in our church building, we have upwards of 20 people who are part of our 'church at home' community regularly worshipping on-line or receiving home communion.



Children represent 6% of our USA and 9% of our worshipping community (compared to 5% & 8% respectively in 2019). All three primary schools and the Kepier school visited church for special Services in Advent for the first time in many years: we had 1267 people at these services (compared to 682 in 2021); in addition, we welcomed a further 393 people from the congregation and local community to special services in Advent (compared to 166 in 2021).

## ***The Year in Review – a word from our Rector***

Last year wider society as a whole continued in its journey navigating the ‘recovery’ phase of the covid pandemic, people in our communities faced the pressures of the cost-of-living crisis. As a nation we celebrated the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee and sadly later in the year mourned the death of Her late Majesty commemorating her seventy years of faithful, dedicated service. Our parish church of St Michael and All Angels did much in the year to serve our local community and to enable the worship and prayer of the people of Houghton-le-Spring.

We began the year having returned to a full complement of worship services: in a ‘normal’ week that is 4-5 services of Holy Communion, 1-2 Services of the Word and 1-2 Baptism services; in addition, we hosted many extra seasonal, civic and special services for the community. At the beginning of the year our congregation size was roughly half of our pre-pandemic numbers. Towards the end of the year numbers at our regular services and seasonal services were roughly 15-20% down on what they were before covid. I actually feel that we should celebrate that we have managed to regain this level of congregation: it is not so in all churches and it has taken a lot of hard work to bring our numbers back to those sorts of levels. As well as the worship we host in our building we retained some forms of on-line worship, particularly our weekly Facebook on-line service – we have a small but committed community who continue to worship in that way. Others who are unable to worship in church are also part of our ‘church at home’ community and regularly receive Holy Communion distributed by members of our Ministry Team. As well as our ‘Pastoral Care Scheme’ we have other more informal pastoral care that takes place between our church members. The production and distribution of our parish ‘Signpost’ magazine continued to be an important way of remaining in touch with people who are still very much part of our church family even if they’re less able to physically be present in the building on Sunday mornings. We are very blessed to have an active and hardworking chapter of Mother’s Union at Houghton and they have provided a great point of focus and important care for members of church and wider membership.

We conducted an unprecedented 59 baptisms last year, the largest number in the last 10 years. These included a large number of children aged around 3 (perhaps unsurprisingly a couple of years after we had no baptisms in the pandemic). We also had a large number of adults who came forward wanting to discuss aspects of faith and this led to their being baptised. We held a significant number of funerals in our church, very sadly losing some much-loved people from our church family. We thank God for their lives and with their loved ones we grieve their passing. We’ve sought to reach out to support those grieving: as well as our funeral ministry we held an ‘All Souls’ service, a Remembering Service at Christmas (with Derek Moss Funeral Directors) and ran a monthly bereavement support group in our Space4 Hub on Newbottle Street.

We are very fortunate to have some great support from retired ordained ministers with PTO (Permission to Officiate): Rev’d Margaret Lee, Rev’d Judith Howes and Rev’d Claire Cullingworth along with our dedicated team of Readers in Sue Elsey, Ros Pickersgill and Anne Clappison all of whom have provided significant support to our church over this last year. Our Ministry Team have enabled us to deliver our regular & seasonal services, occasional offices, bereavement and pastoral care, discipleship development courses as well as a multitude of other ministries. Our Curate John D’Silva contributed much to our church life last year: of particular note, his ministry with children and families of young children, his schools ministry, his work with our Space4 project.

John left us in the year to complete his curacy in a different context. We're grateful for all John did for us in his time with us and offer prayers & good wishes for his future ministry.

We ran a number of courses and events over last year to help people explore and take steps in their faith. Early in the year we held confirmation classes for members of our Young Church and also a course for children being admitted to Holy Communion. We hosted a Lent Course on 'Women of Holy Week' – this was a shared course with our neighbours in St Matthew's Newbottle and St Michael and All Angels, Easington Lane. In the course of the year we held two 'Exploring Faith' courses helping adults consider and prepare for confirmation. Throughout the year we held significant numbers of informal preparation for adults preparing for Baptism. Over the course of the year 11 adults were baptised in church, 3 children were admitted to Communion, 3 young people were confirmed in Durham Cathedral and 5 adults were confirmed here in the Deanery. Through our preaching and teaching in church we hope to encourage all our congregations to take further steps forward in their faith journeys.

We have a small and dedicated team who did much to support the development of our children and young people in a number of ways over the year. Our regular Young Church sessions and Communion preparation was led by our talented and committed leader Clare Taylor. Clare is joined now by Philippa Elsey, Janine Elsey and Jade Turnbull along with our Readers who are leading the development of our All-age worship offering along with Young Church. At the beginning of the year, we held our 'Sparks' service especially for families with young children monthly in the Kepier Hall. After the summer, we incorporated this into a new relaunched All-age Communion service – to try and bring our communities together in the church building, to enable our newly admitted children to participate in Holy Communion and better use our ministry team capacity. As we did this, we're very aware of the risk to some of our regular families at Sparks falling away given the different format and different start time for families. We are though, greatly encouraged by the 'energy' and creativity of the new format: it included more serious topics helping children understand grief ('Waterbugs and Dragonflies') and knitted Mary and Joseph characters entering church to 'Mission Impossible' music on a zipwire! We had local Guides attend three services in the year; we held a number of services for our dedicated Mother's Union chapter. We were really pleased that primary schools came to us for end of year services, schools came to us for Remembrance services and all three primaries and Kepier school attended church for Christmas services at the end of the year.

Music continued to play a major part in our church life over last year. We are very blessed to have such a talented Musical Director and Organist in George Peebles who leads our very accomplished robed choir. George and the choir support our worship at six or more of our services every month as well as some major seasonal and special services in the year. We relaunched our services with more contemporary music in the year and are very blessed that Stuart Clappison and Andy Slater lead this music for us. Andy, along with Tom Ritson, provides support with organ playing at our midweek, seasonal and funeral services. Last year saw the reintroduction of a much fuller music programme: our amazing Gilpin Singers community choir led by Laura Parkin held two concerts; we hosted Organ Recitals, Brass Band Concerts and our 'Late Summer Concert' (in October!) with wonderful contributions from our musicians, singers and guest artists from local schools.

We held a number of very big civic events last year helping celebrate Her late Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee – we held special celebratory services in church (with wonderful music from our musicians and singers), we joined in community events in the Old Rectory with church members helping tell the story of our famous Rectors of the past, and we also gifted copies of a commemorative book 'Her Faithful Majesty' to our congregations. At this time, we had little idea that later in the year we would be supporting our community in mourning the death of Her late Majesty and transition to the reign of our new King Charles III. During the national period of mourning significant numbers of the community came to us to pray, pay their respects and sign our Book of Condolence and attend our Memorial Service giving thanks for the life and mourning the passing of Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

We were delighted to host a returned full 'Feast Service' and to welcome people to Kepier Hall for lunch during October's Houghton Feast: we were joined by the Bishop of Jarrow, the Deputy Lord Lieutenant, the Mayor of Sunderland, our Member of Parliament and other civic guests. The evening saw us hold our 'Community Hymn Sing' and sing the 'Hymn Hit Parade' culminating in the Favourite Hymn of the Folks of the Feast for 2022: 'How Great Thou Art'! Our traditional Remembrance Sunday service moved back into the church building and we were full! Huge numbers also attended the outdoor Act of Remembrance at the Cenotaph. Advent and Christmas saw our hosting our traditional Carol Services which were very well attended. I personally sang 'Away in a Manger' 18 times over the season which I always use as an indication of how Advent is progressing!

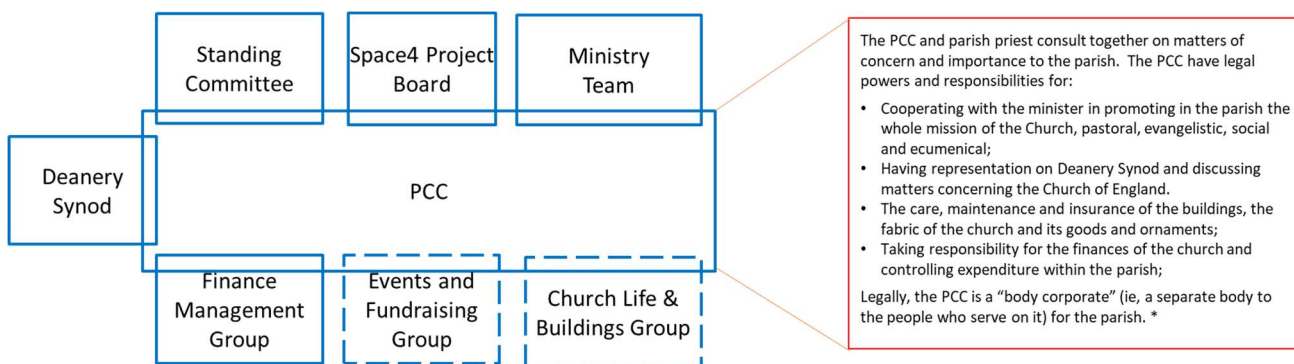
Last year we made huge progress in serving our community through our Space4 project. We do this, of course, 'standing on the shoulders of giants' in the Gilpin tradition! We have significant funding to do that well through grant funding from Lottery's Reaching Communities Fund and other funders. We are aiming to do this while moving to more of a 'social enterprise' model so the project can become more sustainable in future. We continue to aim to be a 'Space4 everyone to flourish': focussing on responding to food poverty, supporting people struggling with isolation and anxiety (especially the elderly and those feeling marginalised), challenging inequalities facing children and young people. Under the umbrella of the project we also reopened our Toddlers Group in Kepier Hall for two sessions a week. A good example of our shift in focus of the project is moving our foodbank to more of a community foodstore where people can come and have agency to choose the food they need and make a donation if they're able to; in the year we also began working with 'Tyne and Wear Citizens' to help us move into Community Organising as we seek to challenge some of the injustices people in our communities are facing. We employ five members of staff on our community project: Daniel, Jade, Candice, Susan and Meghan as well as sessional workers and large numbers of incredible volunteers. We have a very strong and dedicated Project Board with members of PCC and Community to lead our project. As an indication of the impact we're having we can identify over 500 unique people who engage with us through Space4 – that's one in twenty people of our whole parish population!

We began the year with significant pressures on our church finances. In order to meet increasing local and central costs we anticipate that we will need to give focus to energising growth across church: this will take time and in the interim, we continue to try to manage our finances well with great support from our Treasurer and wider Finance Group. A good indication of how well we are managing our finances is how close our expenditure was last year to our budget! We had

anticipated a deficit budget but we overachieved on our income – we are very grateful to all who give generously to church in both financial giving, the giving of time and talents and the endlessly creative ways we’ve managed to fundraise that have enabled us to do this.

There was, as ever, significant work behind the scenes to keep our church building operating. This includes huge efforts from our church wardens, verger, technical verger, assistant verger, cleaners, gardeners, stewards, linen and silver washers, brass polishers, tea makers, cake bakers, people on rotas etc etc as well as our incredibly creative flower arrangers and dedicated open-church stewards (I’m sure to have missed someone out by starting to list – you know who you are and I’m very grateful to you for all you do!). Throughout the year, there was a huge amount of work involved from our PCC and our Standing Committee; we’re indebted to them and to our incredible Parish Administrator who also provided great support ‘behind the scenes’ for our church people, the wider community and to me personally!

In October we agreed a new approach to help us clarify our governance structure and to help PCC discharge their accountabilities in leading the church. This involves the set up of two new groups to look after our Events and Fundraising and our Church Life and Buildings which we will establish in the year ahead.



The PCC and parish priest consult together on matters of concern and importance to the parish. The PCC have legal powers and responsibilities for:

- Cooperating with the minister in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical;
- Having representation on Deanery Synod and discussing matters concerning the Church of England.
- The care, maintenance and insurance of the buildings, the fabric of the church and its goods and ornaments;
- Taking responsibility for the finances of the church and controlling expenditure within the parish;

Legally, the PCC is a “body corporate” (ie, a separate body to the people who serve on it) for the parish. \*

\* PCC have further legal responsibilities as trustees including ensuring compliance with charity law; ensuring safeguarding in church; employer of staff; GDPR data controller, agreeing forms of worship, provision of registers and seats!

We began work with our brothers and sisters at St Matthew’s Newbottle and St Michael & All Angels, Easington Lane with whom we are joining in a group ministry. Towards the end of the year (and at present) we are continuing to explore opportunities to work together as parishes and our ministers are providing cover for services with St Matthew’s now officially in vacancy. A joint ‘Steering Group’ will help navigate this journey in this New Year and we await news on the availability of a non-Stipendiary minister to join the team.

Our PCC did some work in the year looking at our strategies for helping us focus on different important aspects of our church life: *Energising Growth, Engaging with Children and Young People, Challenging Poverty, Caring for Creation*. To help us communicate this, we summarised this on a ‘Plan on a Page’ for St Michael and All Angels. One of the intentions behind this is to help us keep a ‘balance’ across different parts of our church life.

St Michael and All Angels  
Plan on a Page

Aims

1. Developing pathways for children and young people to learn and grow as disciples.
2. Providing good worship for children, young people and families.
3. Extending our engagement with children, young people and families.

Priority 2023

Establish monthly All-age Worship Service

**Engaging with  
Children and  
Young People**



**Energising  
Growth**

*seeing signs  
of the kingdom*

Aims

1. Spiritual Growth.
2. Numerical Growth.
3. Growth in Service.

Priority 2023

**Build-up community  
'more parties than meetings'**

Aims (draft)

1. Cultivating a shared vision for our call to stewardship for the good of all.
2. Promoting responsible consumption, choices & behaviour as individuals and church.
3. Working together to challenge wider environmental indifference and injustice.

Priority 2023

Record, review and evaluate our energy use.

**Caring for  
God's Creation**

***In Houghton-le-spring:  
blessing our community, in  
Jesus name, for the  
transformation of all.***

*We seek to be:*

*Hospitable, inclusive, flourishing.*

**Challenging  
Poverty**

Aims

1. Work together creatively with our community to respond to food poverty.
2. Respond to isolation & anxiety particularly among the elderly and those who feel marginalized.
3. Work with our community to respond to inequalities particularly those affecting children & young people.

Priority 2023

**Engage in Community Organising**

Towards the end of the year, based on what I'd heard from our PCC, I commended to us three priorities for the year ahead – that was just one thing in three areas of church life. These are: Establishing a monthly All-age Worship Service; Engaging in Community Organising; and, to help us Build-up Community and to Energise Growth, to aim to have 'more parties than meetings'. Given we've also set up two new groups and more meetings I know this isn't going to be easy to achieve but I think we're up for the challenge!

**ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS  
HOUGHTON LE SPRING**

**ANNUAL STATEMENT  
OF ACCOUNTS**

**1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2022**

**PCC Treasurer  
Mrs Sue Bradley**

**Independent Examiner  
Mr Peter Brown**

**St Michael and All Angels Parish Church  
Church Street  
Houghton le Spring  
DH4 4DN**

**Registered Charity No. 1135095**

# St Michael and All Angels, Houghton le Spring

## Treasurer's Annual Report for Year 1 January – 31 December 2022

### Overall Bank Balance

The end of year Overall PCC and Next 900 Bank Accounts Balance at **31 December 2022** breakdown and comparison to previous years is detailed below:-

	<b>December 2020</b>	<b>December 2021</b>	<b>December 2022</b>
<b>PCC - Unrestricted</b>	£29,232.14	£25,024.86	£31,869.61
<b>PCC – Restricted</b>	£11,270.00	£14,770.00	£21,078.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£40,502.14</b>	<b>£39,794.86</b>	<b>£52,947.61</b>
<b>Next 900 Account</b>	£ 3,454.61	£ 3,898.61	£ 4,324.61
<b>Overall Total</b>	<b>£43,956.75</b>	<b>£43,693.47</b>	<b>£57,272.22</b>
<b>CBF Legacies</b>	£ 164.09	£ 164.11	£ 166.27

### Assets

The PCC hold a log of all material assets and this report covers only the monetary assets.

### Outstanding Liabilities

We have no outstanding liabilities.

### Receipts and Payments for 2021 in comparison to previous years.

	<b>December 2020</b>	<b>December 2021</b>	<b>December 2022</b>
<b>Receipts</b>	£ 90,192	£104,208	£118,057
<b>Payments</b>	£ 86,694	£104,915	£104,903

An overview breakdown of some of the main headings of Receipts and Payments and comparison to previous year is detailed below:-

<b>Receipts</b>	<b>December 2020</b>	<b>December 2021</b>	<b>December 2022</b>
Planned Giving	£ 43,951	£ 46,709	£44,719
Gift Aid Recovered	£ 12,332	£ 9,363	£11,578
Collections	£ 3,501	£ 7,168	£10,228
Donations	£ 6,956	£ 3,328	£ 9,261
Online Donations	£ 703	£ 1,017	£ 534
Parish Magazine Sales	£ 1,770	£ 1,881	£ 1,783
Parish Magazine Adverts	£ 1,563	£ 135	£ 1,013
PCC Fees	£ 4,656	£ 8,504	£ 9,569





## End of Year Summary

Overall, we have been able to maintain satisfactory Unrestricted Reserves and are in a stable financial position as we enter 2023, although we still need to carefully manage budgets especially around the ongoing rise in prices.

As mentioned above our Planned Giving has reduced mainly due to the reduced number of givers. We should begin to look at ways and opportunities to further promote St Michael and All Angels to the wider community and to enable easier and more ways to access online giving e.g. donate button on website, use of QR codes, text donations.

The aim will be to begin looking at opportunities during 2023.

At September PCC 2022 we agreed our pledge to pay a Parish Share of £47,000 in 2023 (our Guided Pledge from the Diocesan is £49,534) we have agreed to review this on a Quarterly basis with the aim of paying more towards the full guided pledge amount by the end of 2023.

Thank you to all for your help and support and generosity throughout the year.

Thank you to Peter Brown, External Examiner, for reviewing and examining our Accounts for 2022.

Sue Bradley  
PCC Treasurer

**St Michael & All Angels Houghton-le-Spring**  
**Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December**  
**Receipts and Payments Accounts**

**2022**

	Note	Unrestricted Fund	Unrestricted Designated Fund	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2022	Total Funds 2021
		£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>							
<b>Voluntary receipts:</b>							
Planned giving		44,719	-	528	-	45,247	47,237
Collections		10,228	-	-	-	10,228	7,168
Gift Aid recovered		11,578	-	-	-	11,578	9,363
All other giving/voluntary	2	17,648	-	-	-	17,648	13,832
		84,174	-	528	-	84,702	77,600
<b>Activities for generating funds</b>	3	6,823	-	-	-	6,823	4,779
<b>Investment income</b>	4	120	-	-	-	120	101
<b>Church activities:</b>							
Income from trading	5	3,851	-	-	-	3,851	1,881
Asset sales	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other receipts	7	23,089	-	-	-	23,089	20,375
		26,940	-	-	-	26,940	22,256
<b>Total receipts</b>		118,057	-	528	-	118,585	104,736
<b>Payments</b>							
<b>Church activities:</b>							
Parish share		48,000	-	-	-	48,000	49,200
Clergy and staffing costs	8	9,448	-	-	-	9,448	9,303
Church running expenses	9	21,866	-	-	-	21,866	18,816
Hall running costs	10	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mission giving and donations	11	5,230	-	-	-	5,230	3,405
Costs of trading	12	1,210	-	-	-	1,210	10,973
Repairs and redecorations	13	1,086	-	-	-	1,086	922
Asset purchases	14	-	-	-	-	-	-
		86,840	-	-	-	86,840	92,619
<b>Cost of generating funds</b>	15	18,063	-	94	-	18,157	12,380
<b>Governance costs</b>	16	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Other Outgoing Resources costs</b>	16	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total payments</b>		104,903	-	94	-	104,997	104,999
<b>Excess of receipts over payments</b>		13,153	-	435	-	13,588	(263)
Transfers between funds	17	(6,308)	-	6,308	-	-	-
		6,845	-	6,743	-	13,588	(263)
Sale/(purchase) of investments		-	-	-	-	-	-
Cash at bank and in hand at 1 Jan		25,025	-	18,669	-	43,693	43,957
Cash at bank and in hand at 31 Dec		31,870	-	25,411	-	57,281	43,693

**St Michael & All Angels Houghton-le-Spring**  
**Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December**  
**Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the year**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Unrestricted Designated Fund	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2022	Total Funds 2021
		£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Cash funds</b>							
Bank current account		31,870	-	25,403	-	57,272	43,693
CBF deposit fund						-	-
						-	-
						-	-
Other cash funds						-	-
		<b>31,870</b>		<b>25,403</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>57,272</b>	<b>43,693</b>
<b>Other monetary assets</b>							
Income tax recoverable						-	-
						-	-
						-	-
<b>Investment assets</b>							
Investment Fund Shares at market value						-	-
						-	-
						-	-
						-	-
						-	-
<b>Assets retained for Church use</b>							
						-	-
						-	-
						-	-
						-	-
						-	-
<b>Liabilities</b>							
						-	-
						-	-
						-	-
						-	-
						-	-
						-	-

## Further Analysis of Receipts and Payments

	Note	Unrestricted Fund	Unrestricted Designated Fund	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2022	Total Funds 2021
		£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>							
<b>All other giving/voluntary receipts:</b>	2						
Other regular gifts		763	-	-	-	763	1,286
Donations, appeals, etc		9,262	-	-	-	9,262	3,328
Legacies		1,000	-	-	-	1,000	-
Recurring grants		-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-recurring one-off grants		6,624	-	-	-	6,624	9,218
Other funds generated		-	-	-	-	-	-
		<b>17,648</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>17,648</b>	<b>13,832</b>
<b>Activities for generating funds:</b>	3						
Bookstall sales - fund raising		-	-	-	-	-	-
Magazine income - advertising		1,013	-	-	-	1,013	135
Fundraising Activities & Events		5,810	-	-	-	5,810	4,644
		<b>6,823</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6,823</b>	<b>4,779</b>
<b>Investment Income:</b>	4						
Dividends		-	-	-	-	-	-
Trust fund interest		-	-	-	-	-	-
Bank and building society interest		120	-	-	-	120	101
Rent from lands or buildings		-	-	-	-	-	-
Rent from Masts and other property		-	-	-	-	-	-
		<b>120</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>101</b>
<b>Income from Trading:</b>	5						
Bookstall sales - trading		-	-	-	-	-	-
Church hall lettings - trading		-	-	-	-	-	-
Parish magazine sales		1,783	-	-	-	1,783	1,881
Use of photocopier		-	-	-	-	-	-
Other income		2,068	-	-	-	2,068	-
		<b>3,851</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,851</b>	<b>1,881</b>
<b>Asset sales:</b>	6						
Sales of fixed assets		-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Other receipts:</b>	7						
PCC Fees for weddings and funerals		9,569	-	-	-	9,569	8,504
Assigned Fees for weddings and funerals		13,520	-	-	-	13,520	10,640
Insurance claims		-	-	-	-	-	1,231
Surplus - sales of fixed assets		-	-	-	-	-	-
Sundry income for Mission		-	-	-	-	-	-
Sundry income		-	-	-	-	-	-
		<b>23,089</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>23,089</b>	<b>20,375</b>

## Payments

### Church activities:

Missionary giving and donations	11	5,230	-	-	-	5,230	3,405
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**Payments**

**Church activities:**

Missionary giving and donations	11	5,230	-	-	-	5,230	3,405
Clergy and Staffing costs	8	9,448	-	-	-	9,448	9,303
Church running costs	9	13,536	-	-	-	13,536	14,182
Church utility costs	9	8,330	-	-	-	8,330	4,635
Hall running costs	10	-	-	-	-	-	-
Costs of trading	12	1,210	-	-	-	1,210	10,973
		<b>37,754</b>	-	-	-	<b>37,754</b>	<b>42,498</b>

**Major repairs and building works:**

Church major repairs	13	1,086	-	-	-	1,086	921
Hall + major repairs		-	-	-	-	-	-
New building costs		-	-	-	-	-	-
		<b>1,086</b>	-	-	-	<b>1,086</b>	<b>921</b>

**Asset purchases:**

Purchase of fixed assets	14	-	-	-	-	-	-
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**Cost of generating voluntary income:**

Costs of Church Activities & Events	15	2,565	-	-	-	2,565	1,079
Fees paid out for weddings and other services		14,837	-	-	-	14,837	10,634
Investment management costs		661	-	94	-	754	667
Bookstall costs		-	-	-	-	-	-
		<b>18,063</b>	-	<b>94</b>	-	<b>18,157</b>	<b>12,380</b>

**Governance costs:**

Examination/audit fee	16	-	-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-	-

**Other Outgoing Resources:**

Other Outgoing Resources:		-	-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-	-

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	<i>John Owen</i> <i>S. Bradley</i>	JOHN OWEN Sue Bradley	

**Independent Examiner's Report to the members of St Michael and all Angels Parish Church, Houghton le Spring, Parochial Church Council.**

I report on the annual accounts for the year ended 31st December 2022.

**Respective responsibilities of the PCC and Independent Examiner**

The members of the PCC consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

**Independent Examiner's Statement**

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention

1. which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; or
- to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records have not been met; or

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



Peter Brown, BA(Hons)

42 Coptleigh, Houghton le Spring, Tyne & Wear, DH5 8JE

9 February 2023

**SPACE4  
HOUGHTON LE SPRING**

**ANNUAL STATEMENT  
OF ACCOUNTS**

**1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2022**

**Accounts Prepared by  
Social Enterprise Acumen**

**Independent Examiner  
Mr Peter Brown**

**Space4  
76 Newbottle Street  
Houghton le Spring  
DH4 4GB**



## Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	01/01/2022		31/12/2022

### Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Donations	6,396	363	-	6,759	4,163
PCC Grant		4,200	-	4,200	4,200
Other Grants		103,002	-	103,002	108,406
Fundraising	191		-	191	385
Sales		9,569	-	9,569	1,319
Other			-		432
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>6,587</b>	<b>117,134</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>123,721</b>	<b>118,905</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>6,587</b>	<b>117,134</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>123,721</b>	<b>118,905</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Staff Salaries		46,391	-	46,391	37,327
Sessional Workers		11,007	-	11,007	8,165
Rent		9,556	-	9,556	8,693
Utilities and Overheads		6,236	-	6,236	805
Product Costs		19,193	-	19,193	587
Expenses		5,377	-	5,377	1,903
Transport		120	-	120	722
Food and Consumables		1,182	-	1,182	11,692
Equipment		2,409	-	2,409	583
External Support		-	-	-	195
Office Costs & Training		72	-	72	
Professional Fees		4,580	-	4,580	1,846
Other		-	-	-	36
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>106,123</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>106,123</b>	<b>72,554</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>106,123</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>106,123</b>	<b>72,554</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>6,587</b>	<b>11,011</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>17,598</b>	<b>46,351</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>			-	-	-
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>32,037</b>	<b>64,794</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>96,831</b>	<b>50,480</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>38,624</b>	<b>75,805</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>114,429</b>	<b>96,831</b>

## Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Bank Account 33254356	36,946	75,782	-
	PayPal Statement	1,601		-
	Petty Cash	100		-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>38,647</b>	<b>75,782</b>	<b>-</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	Agreement Error	Agreement Error	OK
		<b>Unrestricted funds to nearest £</b>	<b>Restricted funds to nearest £</b>	<b>Endowment funds to nearest £</b>
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>	Details	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>	Details	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>	Details	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>	Details	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

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

Signature

Print Name

Date of approval

*John Barron*  
*S. Bradley*

JOHN BARRON  
Sue Bradley

# Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts

Report to the Management Committee of Space 4 on the accounts for the year ended 31st. December 2022.

## Respective responsibilities of the Management Committee and Independent Examiner

The Management Committee are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

As the Independent Examiner, it is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts (under section 43(3)(a) of the Act);
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 43(7)(b) of the Act); and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

## Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

## Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
  - to keep accounting records
  - to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting recordshave not been met;
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Peter Brown BA(Hons.)  
42 Coptleigh, Houghton le Spring, DH5 8JE  
9 February 2023

**ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS**

**HOUGHTON LE SPRING**

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT  
OF ACCOUNTS**

**1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2022**



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name  
**ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS HOUGHTON-LE-SPRING**

No (if any)

## Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date 01/01/2022	To	Period end date 31/12/2022
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### Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Voluntary Income	90,555	103,855		194,410	194,369
Income from Trading and Activities	33,954	9,569		43,523	28,739
Investment Income	158			158	533
Other				-	
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>124,667</b>	<b>113,424</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>238,091</b>	<b>223,641</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
Asset Sales	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>124,667</b>	<b>113,424</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>238,091</b>	<b>223,641</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Cost of Generating Income	19,273	26,038		45,311	38,257
Church and Project Activities	58,477	57,399		115,876	107,400
Facilities Costs	22,952	18,201		41,153	29,819
Professional Fees		4,580		4,580	2,041
Other				-	36
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>100,703</b>	<b>106,218</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>206,921</b>	<b>177,553</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
Asset purchases	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>100,703</b>	<b>106,218</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>206,921</b>	<b>177,553</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>23,964</b>	<b>7,206</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>31,170</b>	<b>46,088</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	<b>- 10,508</b>	<b>10,508</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>57,062</b>	<b>83,463</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>140,524</b>	<b>94,173</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>70,517</b>	<b>101,177</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>171,694</b>	<b>140,261</b>

## Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Bank Account - Church	31,870	25,403	-
	Bank Account 33254356	36,946	75,782	-
	PayPal Statement	1,601		
	Petty Cash	100		-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>		<b>70,517</b>	<b>101,185</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	Agreement Error	OK

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

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

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
<i>John Barron</i>	JOHN BARRON	27/10/23
<i>S. Bradley</i>	Susan Bradley	27/10/23

## **Church Wardens' Report**

We have still to complete the check of the Terrier in Church and we hope to complete this task very soon. We are still using the one-way system around Church with the hand sanitising stations still in use.

**Building works:** In 2022 there were no major building works in Church but unseen work has taken place. Firstly the fluorescent tubes in the actual bell chamber failed. These were replaced with brand new LED lamps. The new lamps are much brighter than the old ones. As we were receiving requests from bell ringers to ring our bells and three out of the four fluorescent tubes had failed, we had all four of them replaced with LED fittings and at the same time renewed the lights in the upper office. This was very kindly paid for by the Friends of Houghton Church.

The choir vestry also has fluorescent tubes but over the years they have lost their brightness, so an estimate for their replacement has been requested. As an interim solution the wall lamps were upgraded with LED lamp bulbs and whilst they were being ordered new LED lamps were bought for the clock which now sparkles at night! Every year Sunderland City Council pay to have the clock serviced. The company, Smiths of Derby, have their own key and can gain access, but this year they requested that I (Alastair) open up for them. The engineer duly arrived and serviced the clock mechanism. He then showed me graffiti from previous engineers dating back to 1910! He also lubricated the hammers which strike the bells when the clock chimes. Sometimes these jammed off after bell ringers had visited and would have to be manually returned to position!

The Churchwardens would like to thank our Director of Music, George Peebles, and our choir for their contribution to the worship in our Church. We would also like to thank Tim Cullingworth for his professional assistance in broadcasting our online services. A huge thank you goes to our Young Church leaders and helpers, our Sidespeople/ Stewards and members of the coffee rota. Also we would like to thank the Editor of our Church Magazine, Malcolm Foster, who has single-handedly produced a copy every month.

We would also like to thank the members of our Ministry Team for their steadfast contribution to our many services and helping to maintain the mission and ministry of St. Michael and All Angels.

***Rita Turnbull and Alastair Bradley, Church Wardens***

### **Electoral Roll**

The number on the Electoral Roll this year stands at 124 which is down from 125 last year. We have had a few people added to the list but also we have lost a few over this last year. Please let me know of any changes of address or telephone numbers.

Thank you.

***Rita Turnbull, Electoral Roll Officer***

## **The Deanery Synod**

The Deanery Synod meets at approximately 3 monthly intervals. Following the pandemic, when the meetings were held via Zoom, they are now held in churches across the deanery, enabling members to meet in person.

The Angels Way Lindisfarne Gospel Pilgrimage took place in September, giving the pilgrims an opportunity to engage during their journey with local schools and churches.

Parishes in vacancy add to already heavy workloads, and the health and well being of the clergy is of concern. At the meeting in January 2023 Reverend Alistair Prince, Vocations and Strategy Adviser, gave an address about changes in selection and training for ministry. Wings for Worship is a programme designed to train lay members of our churches to lead worship and to preach.

Guided Parish Pledges should be submitted by 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2023.

At the Diocesan Synod held in May 2022, Bishop Paul thanked all who had engaged with Living in Love and Faith and the Pastoral Principles course. The College of Bishops entered a period of reflective prayer on the initiative and proposals are expected to be presented to the General Synod in February 2023.

At the Deanery Synod held in January 2023 parishes were invited to share news, highlights, issues and concerns. The main issues raised across the Deanery were falling congregation numbers, not enough young people and young families being attracted to Church, financial constraints and pressure of workloads on clergy and lay staff. Positive signs of recovery post Covid were noted but attendance numbers were down, and it was felt that loss of capacity within church families was resulting in some reluctance to volunteer for such roles as church warden or treasurer.

It is proposed that the Choir of Durham Cathedral bring the Choral Evensong Experience to parish churches in each of the deaneries through 2023-2024.

The next Deanery confirmation service will take place on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2023, when we look forward to welcoming candidates into the church family.

***David Hann and Dian Scott***

## **Safeguarding Report**

We continue to operate to the values and principles set out in the Parish Safeguarding Policy. Due consideration and assessment of any actual or perceived safeguarding risks is given to all activities across the Church to ensure all participants are safe and protected.

The safeguarding training programme for PCC members continues with the vast majority of members renewing their training during 2022.

Work continues to develop a comprehensive training log of all posts and post holders across all church activities.

The church has adopted and operates within the Diocese Safer Recruitment Policy. This has been applied successfully in the recruitment and appointment to various posts within our Space 4 project.

All new members, volunteers or salaried staff have been subject to the necessary Disclosure and Barring Checks, whilst a programme of renewal continues for all existing volunteers and staff.

In line with our Safeguarding Policy a number of safeguarding issues have been reported over the past year. All are recorded and considered by appropriate officers from the Church and Diocese with agreed action plans put in place. It is pleasing that most issues have been sufficiently managed to closure. Those which remain open continue to be actively managed.

***Kevin Bond, Parish Safeguarding Officer***

## REPORTS FROM THE CHURCH AFFILIATED ORGANISATIONS

Prepared for the

### 2022 Annual Parochial Meeting

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Houghton Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers**

At the moment we have 28 Rainbows, 31 Brownies, 13 Guides and 9 Rangers. We still have a waiting list for Rainbows. Things have finally got back to normal after Covid and the units are doing their regular activities.

Brownies had a pack holiday in the Kepier Hall in May with the theme Harry Potter.

Guides and Rangers had a sleepover in the Kepier Hall in September which included a trip to an activity centre.

All the units took part in the Houghton Feast parade using the theme Queen's Jubilee.

All units attended the Harvest Festival service in October.

The units took part in the Remembrance Sunday parade.

In December we went to Hardwick Hall for the "I believe" event. The girls had a fantastic time doing Christmas activities all day and a special visit to Santa.

***Sheila Wynn***

#### **Liturgical Choir Report**

We have slowly got back to a little more normality although Covid and other viruses are still a concern.

The choir led the church's big events, including the Feast Civic Service and our Special Lenten Service on Passion Sunday which was well supported by St Matthew's, Newbottle and St Michael and All Angels, Easington Lane. Our Advent and Christmas Carol Services were also very well supported.

Our Late Summer Concert with the liturgical choir, the Gilpin Singers and other soloists was excellent. We are grateful for the support of Graham Brown, a gifted musician, who accompanied the choirs and soloists. Our new instrumental music group performed for the first time and were well received by the audience.

I would like to thank the choir for their commitment and support. We are always looking and hoping for new members.

I would like to say a thank you to Rector John for his support and encouragement to maintain our great music tradition at St Michael's.

Finally, I would like to thank our other musicians here at St Michael's who help with the music Tom Ritson, Andy and Stuart.

***George Peebles, Director of Music***

## **Kepier Trust and Management Committee**

After what has been a profoundly difficult year on many fronts, we are now very much looking forward to a new era in the life of the Kepier Hall.

We thank all of our groups who have stayed loyal to us, having undergone a necessary increase in their hire charges because of the huge hike in heating, lighting and other factors beyond our control. We have been so grateful for their support.

Most of the groups we had before Covid have returned, albeit perhaps in a different guise. I am particularly thinking of the Toddler Group which has emerged with enthusiasm and vigour under the watchful eye of Susan from Space 4 . She is of course ably supported by ladies from the original Toddlers whose group endured for over fifty years.

We are also extremely pleased to have the Food Store and Clothing Bank now established in the Kepier Hall – all of these positive enterprises highlight the original words in the constitution of the Kepier which is to serve the community of Houghton both for leisure activities and to meet the needs of the parish .

We, as a Trust and management committee, have welcomed our new Caretaker/Co-ordinator Mr. Darren Snaith who is no stranger to the Trust having been our Treasurer for several years. He began his employment with us in January on a part time basis and is tackling the complexity of the Kepier with gusto. His is very approachable and is happy to sort out any problems that you may have.

The Trust and Management look forward to a full and successful year at Kepier after three years of uncertainty.

***Jean Henderson***

## **Bereavement Group: LIGHT**

‘Light’ has continued to meet and grow in Space4 on the first Tuesday of each month @1.30pm. Numbers of people attending fluctuate depending on holiday season, cold season and all the other demands on people’s lives, particularly grandparent duties. A typical session will have around 6 users and reports received are always favourable; that people found it helpful to meet with others and find they share the same experiences. In this last year I stumbled across an excellent resource book of stories by Tom Gordon, retired hospice chaplain from Edinburgh and member of the Iona Community. Tom writes wonderful stories from his experience of coming alongside bereaved partners at the hospice, and with excellent story telling skills he relates tales that our members are readily drawn into and so evokes the most amazing stories from them too.

If you know anyone experiencing bereavement, please point them in our direction.

Grateful thanks to Rev Judith Howes and Reader Anne Clappison for assisting and occasionally leading the sessions.

***Rev Margaret Lee***

## **Mothers Union Report**

We have 44 members, 3 being indoor members.

2 members of Newbottle branch have joined us and 2 members from Easington Lane Branch have also joined us. Newbottle and Easington Lane branches have had to close because of low numbers.

We had a Beetle drive to raise money for 'Away from it all', a Mothers Union project which helps families to have a holiday or break away. Instead of drawing a beetle we drew a caravan. Everyone that attended had a good afternoon.

The June trip out was at the Causey Inn for afternoon tea. A lovely afternoon was had by all.

We celebrated the Queen's Jubilee in July. 60 members and friends attended. We had a lovely lunch and Bucks fizz, and entertainment was Kayleigh Cares, vintage singer. I had feedback from one member who said that it was the best jubilee celebration she had been to.

In September we held our Harvest home lunch of pies and peas. We had a quiz and bingo and a good natter. The ladies enjoyed it.

We had a stall at the church Christmas coffee morning. Members donated food for the hampers to raffle and for the Christmas anagram. We sold some crochet blankets and Christmas ornaments that had been donated. Money was split between church and Mothers Union.

The AGM was held in January.

Branch Meal was on 27th February at Homer Hill

***Joan Beattie, Mothers Union Leader***

## **The Friends of Houghton Hillside Cemetery 2022**

The committee held no meetings during 2021 but we resumed in June and started to organise litter picks and tidy-ups. Our website was hacked during the Pandemic, but our expert is working on a new one.

Sadly, one of our founding members, Thelma Steele, passed away during the summer while visiting her daughter in Brighton. Her funeral took place in Church and the committee is planning to remember her with a memorial plaque. We planned a big clean-up at the autumn half term, but this had to be cancelled because of illness. Our AGM was held in Church on 20th October, and we welcomed Dot Fenwick who talked about her great great grandfather George Wheatly who is buried in the cemetery and has an unusual monument as a headstone.

For Remembrance Day, we laid a wreath at the Cenotaph at Church and one against the monument in the Cemetery. The War Graves commission had cleaned the headstones in the cemetery prior to this and people have laid poppies and crosses on the graves.

We are looking forward to getting back to full swing in 2023!

***Alastair Bradley, Chair.***

### **Men's Night out –“Last Orders”**

The Pandemic and lockdown effectively ended our monthly meetings and despite having “on-line” quizzes during 2021, the group has not physically restarted.

2023 will be a new year and a new start for the men of the Church.

***Alastair Bradley Organiser.***

### **Flower Guild**

We are very grateful for the kind and generous sponsorship of the flowers. Leslie and I enjoy making the arrangements and have experimented in the last year with pew end flowers for weddings.

If you wish to sponsor a pedestal arrangement at any time during the year (other than Lent or Advent) there is a sign up list on the notice board at the back of Church.

***Carole Cunningham***

### **Hand-Bells**

As the pandemic restrictions eased we were able to give some thought to restarting the Hand-Bells group, and managed to find a few new willing recruits to fill our empty places. We started rehearsing a couple of months before the Advent Carol Service and we were pleased that the practices went so well we were able to play at that service and also on Christmas Eve.

After Easter we plan to start meeting on a monthly basis until the autumn. If you are interested in joining us please get in touch.

***Carole Cunningham***

### **Friends of the Houghton Parish Church**

After two years of inactivity regarding the Friends of the Church's musical weekend, we were delighted to welcome back Houghton Brass and Houghton Youth Band and also Dr. Gordon Stewart, organist, who entertained us for the George Whitfield Organ Concert. Both events were very well supported, along with the ever popular Friends Coffee morning.

It was so clear that everyone was thankful to be back in Church enjoying the music and fellowship which is so important.

We thank all Friends of the Trust who continue through their membership to financially support the relentless work required to the ancient fabric of this important landmark in Houghton. This year the Trust was able to finance new LED lighting to the Bell Tower and Office for the sum of £460.

If you are not already a Friend, you may consider becoming a member from as little as £10 per annum, to enable the continuing maintenance of St. Michael and All Angels.

***Jean Henderson***

## **Young Church**

We were thrilled this year to move back into church. We are currently running sessions alongside the main Eucharist at 10am in the meeting room which allows us to share our activities with the congregation at the end of the service. We still have a regular group of 4 or 5 children taking part each Sunday and we celebrated 3 children receiving their Holy Communion before confirmation.

At present we follow the Gospel stories in church planning from Sermons 4 kids and other useful resources that support the children's faith journey each week. Alongside this, each week worksheets, word searches and colouring materials are available for any children who may want to take part. These activities follow the Gospel story theme in church.

As well as completing tasks/activities each session the children have also taken a role in the 'all age' worship in church each month where the children, help with the sermon, take part in the offertory procession, choose the music and the older children support in giving communion. This is a more inclusive service and has proved very successful with children of all ages through to the adult congregation!

A huge thank you to Philippa, Janine and Jade who have taken more of an active role in running and supporting sessions.

If anyone knows of any primary aged school children who would enjoy hearing a bible story and then making a craft, please feel free to invite them along.

***Clare Taylor, Young Church Leader***

## **Signpost** *[Interview with Editor Malcolm Foster]*

*What's been good over the past year?*

The fact that we're back into the regular routine of writing, producing and delivering our monthly Church magazine. In terms of subscribers, we're almost back to where we were before the pandemic. The pandemic made us all appreciate the value of a monthly magazine that kept everyone informed during such a life-changing period. In fact, Signpost was a vital lifeline for many, helping them to feel connected at a time when many felt isolated. The monthly publication of Signpost is an important part of our Church life.

*And the greatest challenge of the past year?*

The same as every year - meeting the monthly deadline! Very many thanks to all of our contributors who enable this to happen. And, of course, Roger (Elsey) is still a great loss. Roger not only wrote his regular article for Signpost, but he also was a reviewer for the magazine - and I really valued his opinion when I needed a second pair of eyes.

*At a time when so much of our life is online, is there still a place for a paper Signpost?*

Yes, definitely! First, not everyone is online. Second, even if people are online, many like to have a paper copy for easy reference. It's also nice to be able to leave copies of Signpost at the back of the Church so that visitors can see what's going on at St Michael and All Angels. Of course, paper copies need to be delivered, and I am extremely grateful to our team of volunteers who hand deliver Signpost the length and breadth of Houghton-le-Spring each month.

*Thank you, Malcolm – and please accept our gratitude for all you personally do to bring us Signpost each month.*

## **Gilpin Singers**

The ladies in the choir have continued to enjoy meeting throughout the last year, with successful concerts in June and December, also singing at the Church's Late Summer Concert. Our leader Laura Parkin continues to teach and inspire the ladies for which we are very grateful. Also thanks to our accompanist Graham Brown, and to George Peebles for his input when requested.

This summer we plan to have a special concert to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Gilpin Singers. Many of the choir are founder members which proves how much fun, friendship, satisfaction and love of singing the ladies experience from this group. The theme for the Summer Concert will be based on these sentiments.

We are currently at full capacity. If anyone is interested in joining the choir please get in touch (with the Church Office) to be added to the waiting list.

***Carole Cunningham***

## **St. Michael and All Angels Toddler Group**

The toddler group re-opened on 1.5.2022 after a two year absence due to Covid.

As a new member of the team, I was delighted that some of the staff who had previously volunteered decided to come back. Their experience and knowledge has been invaluable and helped me to settle in to my new role. I would also like to say that all of the volunteers at team toddlers are amazing and I could not run the toddler group without them.

The toddler group has grown and currently has approximately 50 children attending over the two sessions.

We cater for all ages/stages and abilities. Children with SEND are very welcome to attend as we are an inclusive group. The toys available to the children change each week and include construction toys, problem solving toys, role-play, books, messy play, small world, large toys and our lovely slide which is always a favourite with the children. Through the activities provided children use their brains to problem solve, their hands to develop their fine motor skills and the large toys to develop their gross motor skills. Through the use of role play children's imagination is encouraged. The art and craft table provides the children with the opportunity to work with their parents/carers. All the activities provide help the children to develop holistically.

I recently asked parents/carers if there was anything we did not provide that they would like. One response was to have the refreshments available throughout the session. This was acted upon and we have received lots of good feedback. This also provides the opportunity for parents/ carers to interact with each other while they sit around the refreshment tables provided.

The children's Christmas parties were a huge success with many families attending.

### **Some Comments from parents/carers.**

"Happy for him to come here, it's great".

"Nice today as the heating is on and nice to have the music". (I have bought a nursery rhyme CD to play throughout the session).

"Your all brilliant, Reuben loves coming here".

Nana said to Cameron who is 2. "Say bye to Susan", Cameron "Bye, I've had a lovely time".

***Susan Watson***

## **Space4 Hub**

In July 2021 we set to relaunch our Space4 high-street hub after the final national lockdown. We spent the most part of year 1 encouraging people to meet back in person rather than square boxes via Zoom. I'm so chuffed to say that we are now just as busy, if not busier, than how the project was operating before anyone had heard anything of 'covid'. October 2022 brought over 760 pairs of feet across the threshold of our Hub doors giving us an average of 30 people a day. Since January '23 the same sessions have welcomed closer to 50 people a day. There are many reasons why I feel we are going from strength to strength:

**Hub redesign:** We have recently invested over £5000 to make better use of our space. The room feels more spacious despite installing large table-top counters which enables us to facilitate better food and drinks than the tea, coffee, and biscuits we had previously been limited too! As we approach the summer, I'm hoping we will have an array of hot food options to choose from.



**New hours and workshops:** We want our floorspace to be used as much as possible by as many like-minded groups that we can find! Additional partnerships with groups such as the Voluntary Community Alliance (VCS) has enabled us to extend our drop-in hours, did you know on a Thursday we are currently open 9:30AM till 19:30PM! We are filling the extra spaces in our diary with thematic sessions such as a games club and movie nights.

Partner agencies like SHARP are able to come and arrange face-to-face meetings at our venue offering support with benefits advice; while our phone, internet connection and [occasionally intermittent] printer is accessible to all.

**New team members:** We couldn't manage a fraction of what we manage to achieve without the phenomenal team we have built. We love welcoming new members to help us be 'boots on the ground' or assisting with 'backstage admin gubbins'. This year we hosted a Christmas Meal celebration *and* a game of laser quest as a small 'thank you' for all that people give.

**Continuation of established activities:** I'm besotted that our Christmas Day meal provision was still able to occur this year. You may remember that during Dec '22 we were hosted in the adjacent *Nutmeg Tree Café* which sadly closed their doors around October. This year we based ourselves at Kieper Hall and had *The Nutmeg Tree Café* staff return to support our cause. Did you see members of our Cake and Chat group in the Northern Echo? We were delighted to celebrate the

100<sup>th</sup> birthday of two members of our Space4 community. Other groups such as Wednesday crafts and Bereavement support are meeting regularly within the Hub.

### **Kepier Hall**

We are too big to host our whole provision of service in one venue, so we are thankful for Kepier Hall offering us a friendly home for our Space4 Community Store, Uniform and Toddler groups.

**Community Store:** Our Community Store is our primary vehicle to help folks keep their cupboards fuller in an affordable way across Houghton-le-Spring. In January just shy of 450 people benefited from what we offer. We have continued to take gradual steps to feel established such as implementing a card machine, additional wall signage and a 'proper till'.

Our range of goods has increased with special thanks to the feedback gleaned from regular supporters. This has also helped shape 'meal-kit' boxes which provides all ingredients required for a hearty meal for a suggested donation pricing system. You may not know, but we don't advertise a set price on any item; we operate on a 'suggested donation' basis with a starting point being 'any 10 items for £3.50'. Anything surplus which is offered simply off-sets those who can't contribute as much to replenish stock.



**Our Toddler Group** is feeling quite full on a Tuesday afternoon with some availability on a Friday morning. Each month has a special theme to inspire the craft activities which helps the toddlers engage with their senses and developing minds. Light refreshments are now available across the session.

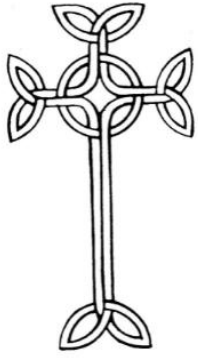
**Community Listening:** As a Project we want to challenge the inequalities we see across Houghton-le-Spring. Our partnership with Tyne and Wear Citizens is providing the tools, training and resources to shape our work. Nine members of our community have already completed their two-day training course and we look to host more training events in the future. We are currently conducting a listening campaign which we will then use to unite like-minded figures that are passionate over the same causes to bring positive change.

***Daniel Alcock***

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# Accounts

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St Michael & All Angels  
Houghton-le-Spring

# ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING 2022

Sunday 15th May  
11.15 am





**St Michael & All Angels Parish Church, Houghton-le-Spring  
Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church Meeting  
Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

**AGENDA**

**MEETING OF PARISHIONERS:**

1. **Prayers**
2. **Apologies** for Absence
3. **Minutes** of meeting held on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2021
4. **Election** of Church Wardens

**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING:**

1. **Minutes** of Meeting held on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2021 and matters arising.
2. **Notification** of any other items of business
3. **Electoral Roll Report and Parish Statistics**
4. **Rector's Report**
5. **Presentation of Annual Report for 2021**
  - Annual Accounts, Treasurer's Reports, Independent Examiner's Report
  - Church Wardens' Reports and Fabric Reports
  - Deanery Synod Report
  - PCC Secretary's Report
  - Safeguarding Report
  - Reports from the Church Affiliated Organisations
6. **Elections** Assistant Church Wardens; Parochial Church Council Members.
7. **Appointments** Electoral Roll Officer; Gift Aid Officer; Sidespersons; Independent Examiner of Church Accounts; PCC Representation for Readers and Pastoral Assistants
8. **'Looking forward'** by the Rector
9. **Any other business**

*There will be an initial meeting of the PCC immediately after the APCM, to appoint Church Officers (Secretary, Treasurer, Vice Chair, Safeguarding Officer) and agree date of next PCC.*

## Minutes of the 97<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of Parishioners

### ST. MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS PARISH CHURCH, HOUGHTON-LE-SPRING

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2021

In attendance

Priest-in-Charge Reverend John Barron, Curate John d'Silva and Parishioners, either physically present in Church or present virtually on Zoom/dial-in.

1. The Rector welcomed everyone – those in Church, those on Zoom - to the meeting. He commented that the Annual Report had been made available on-line, and that some hard copies were available in Church. Additional hard copies could be obtained from the Parish Administrator.
2. The Rector opened the meeting in prayer.
3. Apologies for absence were received from Reverend Margaret Lee and Mrs Anne Goodman.
4. The Minutes of the meeting held on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2020, having been circulated, were taken as read. They were confirmed and signed.
5. **Election of Church Wardens**

The Rector had received two nominations for the office of Church Warden: Rita Turnbull and Alastair Bradley. Both Rita and Alastair were elected unanimously to serve as Church Wardens until the 2022 APCM. They were thanked and congratulated.

**This concluded the meeting of Parishioners**



15/5/22

## Minutes of the ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING held on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Those present had had access to a copy of the 2021 Annual Report, either on-line or in hard copy, and the Rector guided them through the Report as follows:

1. **The Minutes** of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2020, having been circulated, were taken as read. They were unanimously accepted and were signed as a true record. There were no matters arising.

2. **No other items of business were notified.**

### 3. Electoral Roll and Parish Statistics

- a) Electoral Roll - The current number on the electoral roll is 123, a decrease of 6 over last year. Typically, the electoral roll grows as the year progresses.
- b) Parish statistics – The Rector highlighted some of the key statistics: our worshipping community numbers 124; usual Sunday numbers are 31 adults. All parish statistics have been greatly affected by the restrictions associated with the pandemic. Alongside those who worship in Church, others access our on-line worship. The section 'A Year in Numbers' in the 2021 Annual Report gives full details.

### 4. Rector's Report

The Rector delivered his Report, found on pages 9–11 of the 2021 Annual Report.

### 5. Presentation of Annual Report for 2021

#### a) Annual Accounts, Treasurer's Reports, Independent Examiner's Report

- Treasurer SB presented the Annual Accounts.
- SB thanked the Close the Gap team for the funds they had raised for the Church in continuing challenging circumstances. She also thanked others for individual fundraising efforts.
- There were no questions for the Treasurer. The Accounts were accepted unanimously, as were the Treasurer's reports and the Independent Examiner's Report.

The Rector then referred the meeting to the following Reports:

#### b) Church Wardens' Reports and Fabric Reports

#### c) Deanery Synod Report

#### d) PCC Secretary's Report

#### e) Safeguarding Report

All of these Reports were accepted unanimously.

#### f) Reports from Church Affiliated Organisations

Finally, the Rector referred the meeting to the Reports submitted by the Church Affiliated Organisations. He thanked those who, year in, year out, work extremely hard to enable the many activities to take place. Life at St Michael's is very rich because of this.

The meeting voted to accept these Reports and the Annual Report in its entirety.



15/5/22

## 6. Elections

**Assistant Church Warden:** Thelma Steel had expressed her willingness to stand again. All were in favour.

**Deanery Synod representatives:** The term of office of the current representatives (David Hann, Kevin Bond and Dian Scott) continues until 2023.

**PCC members:** Nominations were received on behalf of Sheila Foster and David Turnbull. They were duly elected.

## 7. Appointments

**Electoral Roll Officer** – Rita Turnbull

**Gift Aid Officer** – Sue Bradley

**Sidespersons** – see amended list at bottom of page 6 of Annual Report.

**Independent Examiner of Church Accounts** – Peter Brown

**PCC Representation for Readers and Pastoral Assistants** – Anne Clappison

## 8. 'Looking forward' by the Rector

The Rector shared his vision for the year ahead.

'At last year's October APCM I offered the image of a sailing boat to help illustrate the kind of journey we are taking together. We have a sense of our current direction but we might have some changes of direction on the journey – some tacking or reaching or running with the wind. Just as a sailing boat is dependent on the wind to move so we the church are dependent on God to give us the energy, the impetus, that we need to move. Importantly, I think, I want to help us to notice the direction of the wind to work with it to help us navigate the journey.

I want to highlight a few things that I've noticed at this stage of the journey:

- With the pandemic, the increased challenges that people in our communities face: financial, social isolation, bereavement. I've also seen the many assets, the great giftedness of the people in our communities;
- I see some continued decrease in the number of people in the core of church but also increases in the number of people on the fringes of church;
- There are challenges in meeting financial commitments as church but I also see incredible energy and commitment and creativity in meeting those challenges;
- There is uncertainty about the future of our group ministry with Newbottle and Hetton but some shared involvement in our community work along with some rekindled ecumenical relationship;
- At this stage there is still uncertainty about the future in respect to our co-existence with Covid but I see incredible flexibility, resilience, commitment to each other and the wider community in our church.

This coming year will see the launch of a refreshed diocesan strategy, with priorities identified in the areas of:

- Caring for God's Creation;
- Challenging Poverty;
- Energising Growth;
- Engaging with Children and Young People.

JB  
15/5/22

We have already made some really great progress in the area of Challenging Poverty with our work on the next chapter of our Space4 project. The refreshed strategy, overall, may offer us a helpful framework within which to begin to chart the journey ahead.

In that area of Challenging Poverty, we've agreed a new approach to our Space4 project over the next 3-5 years. This is going to involve developing our foodbank into a community store, establishing a café in the Kepier building and developing the community hub in the Newbottle Street building. We've had some really great news in we've had a successful and substantial grant award from lottery that will give us much of the funding we need to start this. We're in the process of recruiting a new operational manager and we're aiming to begin the project on 1<sup>st</sup> July.

Ultimately, I think that a crucial part of our task at the moment is to work out how to flourish as God's church and how to help our local communities to flourish. We can only do that if we look to God. We will need to seek God's guidance, God's strength, God's inspiration. And so therefore I want to make a call to us today, a call to prayer as a church over these coming months.

At this time between Ascension and Pentecost this includes prayer for our wider community including that more people in our community will come to live the best possible lives they can by knowing Christ in their lives. Over these coming weeks and months that call to prayer will continue to underpin what we're seeking to do as God's church, to discern and work out together what God is calling us to be and to do as church in these times.'

## **9. Any other business**

Jean Henderson offered thanks on behalf of the Church to the Rector and the Ministry Team for all they had done to keep our Church flourishing during another challenging year.

There being no other business, the APCM closed with the Grace.

JB  
15/5/22

## Parochial Church Council 2021-22

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical, as well as the maintenance and upkeep of the ancient building. The PCC meets monthly throughout the year and may hold extraordinary meetings as and when they are required.

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

The Standing Committee of the PCC is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the PCC. The Standing Committee consists of the Rector, Church Wardens, Assistant Wardens, Treasurer and Secretary.

During the past year, the following served as members of the PCC:

<b>Incumbent Curate</b>	Reverend John Barron Reverend John d'Silva
<b>Church Wardens</b>	Rita Turnbull, Alastair Bradley
<b>Asst. Church Warden</b>	Thelma Steel
<b>Treasurer, Gift Aid Officer</b>	Sue Bradley
<b>Secretary</b>	Angela Slater
<b>Safeguarding Officer</b>	Kevin Bond
<b>Readers' Representative</b>	Anne Clappison
<b>Deanery Synod Representatives</b>	David Hann, Dian Scott, Kevin Bond Term of Office 2020-23
<b>Elected members</b>	Sheila Foster, David Turnbull Term of Office 2021-24
	Malcolm Foster, Brian Scott, Clare Taylor Term of Office 2020-23
	Kathleen Close, Lynn Scott Term of Office 2019-22
<b>Co-opted members</b>	George Peebles (Director of Music) Reverend Margaret Lee, Reverend Judith Howes, Susan Elsey, Simon Hardy Term of Office 2020-23

### Sidespersons

Joan Beattie  
Evelyn Garbutt  
Jean Henderson  
Dian Scott  
Rita Turnbull  
Sheila Wynne

Sheila Gamble  
Elaine Harkness  
Brian Scott  
David Turnbull  
Beth Weedon

## ***A Year in Numbers: some facts and figures from our Mission Statistics***

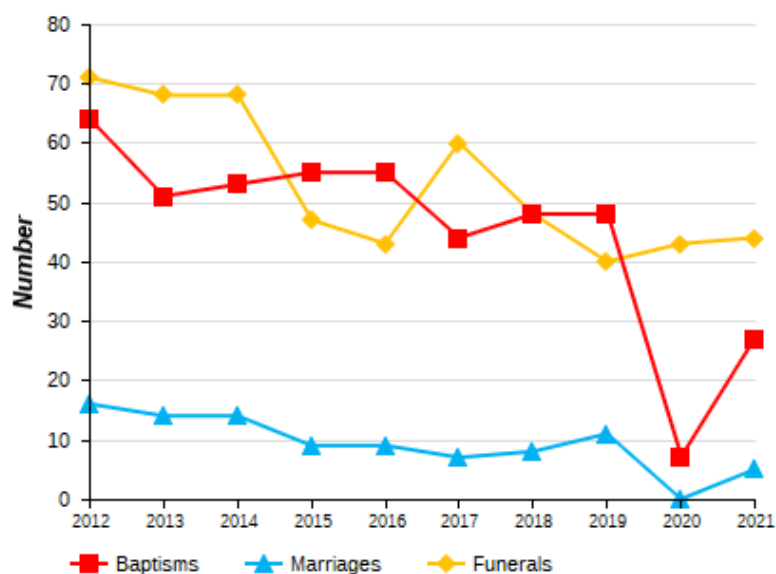
The number of parishioners on the Electoral Roll was 125, this compares with 123 last year. These figures are significantly lower than the 225 people on the Roll in 2017 before the most recent full revision.

Our 'Worshipping Community' (those who regularly come to church, at least every 2 months) is currently at 132 people, shown in the table below. We had 20 people join us in the year but also 14 who sadly are no longer worshipping with us, including a number of dearly loved members of our church family who died during the year. Our attendance figures are showing a marked decrease on numbers in the years prior to the pandemic but are showing the beginnings of small increases in worshipping community of 132 as compared with 124 last year. There are notable increases in the number of children and young people who are part of the community.

### **Worshipping Community**

<i>Age</i>	<i>2016</i>	<i>2017</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2020</i>	<i>2021</i>
<i>0-17</i>	<i>34</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>53</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>18-69</i>	<i>148</i>	<i>167</i>	<i>37</i>	<i>66</i>	<i>59</i>	<i>61</i>
<i>70+</i>	<i>87</i>	<i>88</i>	<i>170</i>	<i>66</i>	<i>57</i>	<i>56</i>

In the last 2 years reporting of figures for 'Usual Sunday Attendance' (USA) have been suspended because of the pandemic. This figure however is important for us to understand. In 2019 on a 'usual' Sunday we had 93 adults and 5 children attending a number of different worship services in church. Immediately after the pandemic on returning to church this figure was just over 20 attending a single service in the church building. In October, following a 'season of invitation' this number was upwards of 50. By the end of the year we were beginning to see some slow increases in attendees with all of our services now reinstated but USA still very much lower than numbers of people attending before the pandemic. We also reinstated our mid-week services of Holy Communion on a Tuesday evening and Thursday morning: Thursday morning services typically have over 20 people attending.

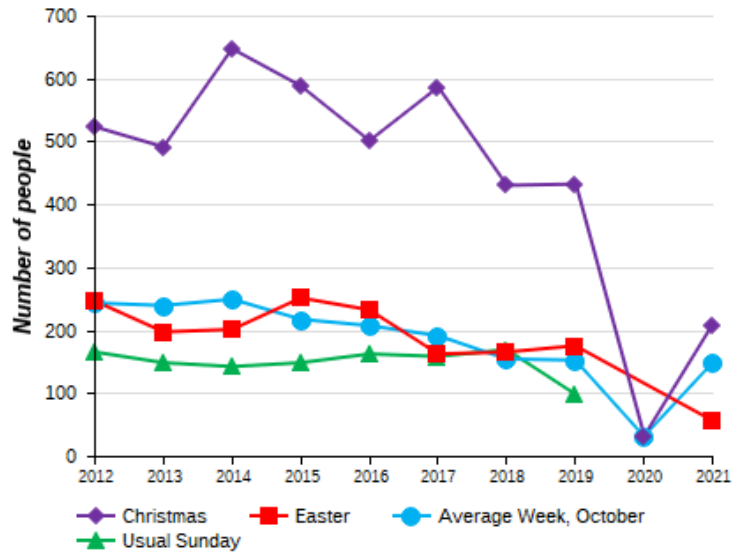


We continue to serve our community through funeral ministry: we conducted 44 funeral services last year (as compared with 43 in 2020 & 40 in 2019).

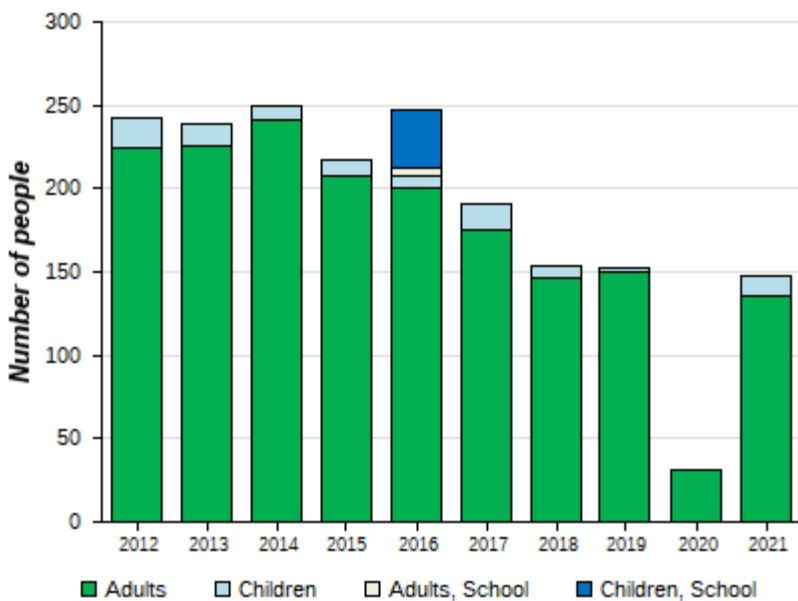
We have significant numbers of people coming back to us for other 'occasional offices' (but not at the levels we had before the pandemic). Last year there were 27 baptisms in our church (compared to 7 in 2020 and 48 in 2019). We also held 5 weddings (we did no weddings in 2020 and 11 in 2019).

We had significant numbers of people coming to worship with us for seasonal services in December: 208 people came to services on Christmas Day and Christmas Eve (this compares with 30 in 2020 and 432 in 2019).

There were 56 people worshipping with us on Easter day last year, compared to none in 2020 and 175 in 2019.



Our average weekly attendance figure in October was 148. This was very close to the numbers in 2019. This figure includes a very encouraging increase in the number of children coming to us, including to our new 'Sparks' family service. (While we ought to be encouraged, it is a little deceptive as October was during our 'season of invitation').



We have not yet been able to reintroduce our school based 'Open the Book' assemblies but we held two church-based and one on-line Christmas carol service with schools and welcomed others into church over that period.

## ***The Year in Review – a word from our Rector***

I had huge admiration for the people of our church as we continued to respond to the challenges of the covid pandemic last year and were able, in so many ways, to ‘flourish’ and to help our communities flourish in the time of covid. For a large part of the year we held worship with a limited number of services in the building itself and continuing our on-line offering for those unable to physically be present. Our ministry team, choir and technical team showed great commitment throughout the year in enabling us to offer a range of worship offerings.

In the first half of the year, our church building had reduced seating to allow for social distancing – we had a staged reintroduction of our pews and, by the middle of the year in time for the removal of national restrictions for weddings and funeral attendance, all of our pews were in church with seating set-aside to enable people to come into church who felt vulnerable. Throughout the year we responded to the multiple changes in government guidance and national law and sought to keep a balance between removing restrictions in church and enabling people who felt vulnerable to be able to worship. We intentionally responded slowly to opening up (usually a couple of weeks behind government announcements, allowing time for changed guidance to arrive and be built into revised risk assessments!). This inevitably felt too slow for some and too fast for others in our congregations but we tried to keep a balanced approach. By the end of the year, and ahead of Christmas, we had returned to our full complement of worship services and were able to be open for our larger regular Christmas services.

With the wider reopening of our church buildings our work with children and young people thankfully restarted meeting in person thanks to our talented and committed leader and her helpers and also thanks to the continued enthusiasm and creativity of our young folks. In the later part of the year, our Sparks service, especially for families with young children, met monthly in the Keping Hall and held two outdoor gatherings over the summer holiday. During the year we celebrated the contribution that our Toddler Group had made for over 50 years to our local community: we took a pause in the operation of the group and began exploring how to operate the group in future years. By the end of the year, we were really pleased that local nurseries and our local schools came to us for Christmas services and concerts (some physically in the building, some ‘virtually’ with the help of technology). We were really pleased that young people from Keping school were involved in services at Remembrance and at Christmas for the first time for quite a number of years.

We continued to give focus to pastoral care for our church community and beyond in the year with our ministry team and a wider team of people seeking to support people through telephone contact and home visits. This included distributing Communion to people in the community. The production and distribution of our parish magazine remained an important way of remaining in touch with people who were very cut off for a large part of the year. In the early part of the year, we held fellowship groups on Zoom – these included quizzes, beetle drives and bingo which also had a fundraising element. Our on-line study groups were also a feature of the first part of the year.

Very sadly, a number of much loved members of our church community and wider family died in the year: this included our previous Rector The Venerable Sue Pinnington. We give thanks for the lives of those who died in the year and thank God for their contribution to our church and

community and with their loved ones we grieve their passing. We've sought to reach out and support our wider community in a number of ways in a year where there has been much grief, for example, through our funeral ministry, an 'All Souls' service for the bereaved and the reintroduction of a bereavement support group which we run monthly.

We were delighted to host the 'Feast Service' in the building during October's Houghton Feast: we were joined by the Bishop of Durham, the Deputy Lord Lieutenant, the Mayor of Sunderland, our Member of Parliament and other civic guests in church. The evening saw us hold an outdoor 'Community Hymn Sing' (for the first time since the 1970's). We also held an outdoor service for Remembrance Sunday (this is traditionally held in the church building) with literally hundreds attending on the Broadway (which went so well we will consider doing it in this way in future years). Advent and Christmas saw the reintroduction of some of our traditions including our Crib Service and Carol Services – numbers were managed to make sure people attending felt safe and they were very well attended. Throughout the year we were very blessed by the music of our choir under the direction of our musical director, our contemporary music group and the Gilpin Singers.

Last year was a significant year in our Space4 project moving to a 'New Chapter'. In July we launched a new stage of the project funded by the Lottery Reaching Communities Fund. We continue to aim to be a 'Space4 everyone to flourish': focussing on responding to food poverty, supporting people struggling with isolation or anxiety (especially the elderly and those feeling marginalised), challenging inequalities facing children and young people. We are aiming to do this while moving to more of a 'social enterprise' model so the project can become more sustainable in future. A good example of our shift in focus is moving our foodbank to more of a community foodstore where people can come and have agency to choose the food they need and make a donation if they're able to. This is much more in line with the community 'food cupboard' we have always had in Space4 where we value everyone's contribution to the cupboard and no-one is turned away. In peak months we were feeding upwards of 140 households from the foodbank/foodstore. In addition, in the later part of the year we reopened our Newbottle Street Drop-in and recruited new staff and volunteers to support the project.

There remained significant pressures on our church finances last year with reduced income from many of our normal income streams – we were very grateful to all who were able to continue to give generously to church in both financial giving, the giving of time and talents and the endlessly creative ways we've managed to fundraise (despite covid restrictions). In order to meet increasing local and central costs we anticipate that we will need to give focus to energising growth across church: this will take time and in the interim, we continue to try to manage our finances well with great support from our Treasurer and wider Finance Group.

Throughout the year, there was a huge amount of work involved in navigating the pandemic from our PCC and our Standing Committee (who met weekly on Zoom); our Parish Administrator also provided great support 'behind the scenes' working in the office and remotely at times. We owe a great debt of thanks to all those who worked tirelessly in the background and who helped our navigating the recovery phase of the pandemic last year.

The year 2021 saw the launch of the refreshed Diocesan Strategy providing a set of priorities to focus on in the areas of: *Energising Growth, Engaging with Children and Young People, Challenging Poverty, Caring for Creation*. We began work in the year looking at our own priorities as parish and seeing how they fit into this framework. We started early in the year on the Challenging Poverty priority and are making some good progress (including through our Space4 Project). In addition, later in the year we started work with PCC looking at the other areas and we will continue working on this in the year ahead to help us in our planning for the future. Towards the end of last year, we held some preliminary discussions about the need to plan for the move to a group ministry with St Matthew's Newbottle and St Michael & All Angels, Easington Lane. We anticipate this will be another important part of our planning for the future in the year ahead.

Last year was a very difficult year in many ways for the people of our church and wider communities and these times continue to hold huge challenges for many of us and for many others in our world. My encouragement to us over these last years of the pandemic has been not only how do we learn to live with whatever challenges we face but rather how do we flourish even with the challenges.

As I reflect over this last year, I remain incredibly heartened by the many ways that the people of our churches have enabled each other and others to flourish. I continue feeling it a great privilege to be the spiritual leader of this church as we seek together to continue to be a blessing to our communities. We have done this in bounds in our past, including our recent past in the pandemic, and will continue to do so, I'm confident, in our future.

***Reverend John Barron***

***Rector of St Michael and All Angels, Houghton-le-spring***

**ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS  
HOUGHTON LE SPRING**

**ANNUAL STATEMENT  
OF ACCOUNTS**

**1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2021**

**PCC Treasurer  
Mrs Sue Bradley**

**Independent Examiner  
Mr Peter Brown**

**St Michael and All Angels Parish Church  
Church Street  
Houghton le Spring  
DH4 4DN**

**Registered Charity No. 1135095**

## St Michael and All Angels, Houghton le Spring Treasurer's Annual Report for Year 1 January – 31 December 2021

### Overall Bank Balance

The end of year Overall PCC and Next 900 Bank Accounts Balance at **31 December 2021** is **£39,794.86** the breakdown and comparison to previous years is detailed below:-

	<b>December 2019</b>	<b>December 2020</b>	<b>December 2021</b>
<b>PCC - Unrestricted</b>	£33,003.70	£29,232.14	£25,024.86
<b>PCC – Restricted</b>	£ 4,000.00	£11,270.00	£14,770.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£37,003.70</b>	<b>£40,502.14</b>	<b>£39,794.86</b>
<b>Next 900 Account</b>	£ 2,786.97	£ 3,454.61	£ 3,898.61
<b>Overall Total</b>	<b>£39,790.67</b>	<b>£43,956.75</b>	<b>£43,693.47</b>
<b>CBF Legacies</b>	£ 163.33	£ 164.09	£ 164.11

### Assets

The PCC hold a log of all material assets and this report covers only the monetary assets.

### Outstanding Liabilities

We have no outstanding liabilities.

### Receipts and Payments for 2021 in comparison to previous years.

	<b>December 2019</b>	<b>December 2020</b>	<b>December 2021</b>
<b>Receipts</b>	£127,009	£ 90,192	£104,208
<b>Payments</b>	£116,826	£ 86,694	£104,915

An overview breakdown of some of the main headings of Receipts and Payments and comparison to previous year is detailed below:-

<b>Receipts</b>	<b>December 2019</b>	<b>December 2020</b>	<b>December 2021</b>
Planned Giving	£ 43,853	£ 43,951	£ 46,709
Gift Aid Recovered	£ 12,892	£ 12,332	£ 9,363
Collections	£ 13,055	£ 3,501	£ 7,168
Donations	£ 12,881	£ 6,956	£ 3,328
Online Donations	-	£ 703	£ 1,017
Parish Magazine Sales	£ 1,367	£ 1,770	£ 1,881
PCC Fees	£ 5,932	£ 4,656	£ 8,504
Fundraising	£ 13,959	£ 2,232	£ 4,644



Repairs and Redecoration costs are particularly low for the year (£921), however a great deal has been achieved:-

The attempted theft of lead from the Organ loft roof caused damage to the roof allowing water to ingress and cause damage to the organ.

A big thank you to the Friends of Houghton Church who paid for repairs to the Organ Loft Roof (£5,854.80). We also received an Insurance Claim payment of £1,230.80 for Roof repairs / Organ repair due to water damage.

The Friends of Houghton Church also paid for the replacement of our old wooden stairs with new steel stairs (£1,428) giving us much safer access to the Bell Tower.

Thank you to the National Lottery Heritage Fund who awarded us a £6,300 grant towards the safe re-opening of Church during the Pandemic restrictions. This allowed us to have the gutters cleaned and repaired, jet washing of outdoor areas, floor cleaning within Church, servicing of the Organ, storage of pews during socially distanced safe seating in Church and replacement of tap in toilet at the rear of Church. Also provision of hand sanitisers, paper cups, paper towels, 2 kettles, mobile phone, Church signage (Notice Board facing the Broadway and A boards) and literature (A Guide to St Michael & All Angels and Book Marks).

Reduced use of the Church building and careful management of maintenance and utilities also contributed to lower overall church running costs.

### **Restricted Budget Breakdown**

#### **Balance carried forward from 2020:**

Organ / Music Fund	£ 2,000
Legacy	£ 770
Parish Share Contingency	£ 8,500

#### **Income 2021**

Parish Share Contingency	£ 3,500 (Transferred from Unrestricted)
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**Total as at 31 Dec 2021** **£14,770**

#### **Next 900 Account**

Balance carried forward from 2020	£3,454.61
Income in 2021	£ 444.00
<b>Total Balance</b>	<b>£3,898.61</b>

*(Please see attached detailed Receipts and Payments Accounts for Year ended 31 December 2021)*

The Toddler Group which operated independently and who managed their own finances has now sadly closed.

## **End of Year Summary**

I think we all agree that following on from 2020, 2021 has again been a strange, unpredictable and difficult year, although the second part has been somewhat brighter.

Overall, we have been able to maintain satisfactory Unrestricted Reserves and are in a stable financial position as we enter 2022, although we still need to carefully manage budgets especially around predicted price increases.

Although our Planned Giving remains consistent, we should note that our regular Planned Givers have reduced. There are opportunities we could consider to further promote St Michaels and All Angels to the wider community, also to look at ways to enable more / easier access to online giving and we will start looking at these during 2022.

In Sept / Oct 2021 we agreed to pay a Parish Pledge of £47,000 in 2022 (our Guided Pledge from the Diocesan is £50,430) we have agreed to review this on a Quarterly basis with the aim of paying the full guided pledge amount by the end of 2022.

I would like to say thank you to Rector John and Philippa Elsey our Administrator for their continued help and support throughout the year.

Thank you to all for your ongoing generosity and support throughout the year.

***Sue Bradley***  
***PCC Treasurer***

**St Michael & All Angels Houghton-le-Spring**  
**Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2021**  
**Receipts and Payments Accounts**

	Note	Unrestricted Fund	Unrestricted Designated Fund	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2021	Total Funds 2020
		£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>							
<b>Voluntary receipts:</b>							
Planned giving		46,709	-	528	-	47,237	44,524
Collections		7,168	-	-	-	7,168	3,501
Gift Aid recovered		9,363	-	-	-	9,363	12,332
All other giving/voluntary	2	13,832	-	-	-	13,832	8,085
		<b>77,072</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>528</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>77,600</b>	<b>68,442</b>
<b>Activities for generating funds</b>	3	<b>4,779</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,779</b>	<b>3,949</b>
<b>Investment income</b>	4	<b>101</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>92</b>
<b>Church activities:</b>							
Income from trading	5	1,881	-	-	-	1,881	4,676
Asset sales	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other receipts	7	20,375	-	-	-	20,375	13,761
		<b>22,256</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>22,256</b>	<b>18,437</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>		<b>104,208</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>528</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>104,736</b>	<b>90,921</b>
<b>Payments</b>							
<b>Church activities:</b>							
Parish share		49,200	-	-	-	49,200	35,000
Clergy and staffing costs	8	9,303	-	-	-	9,303	13,353
Church running expenses	9	18,816	-	-	-	18,816	20,171
Hall running costs	10	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mission giving and donations	11	3,405	-	-	-	3,405	5,128
Costs of trading	12	10,973	-	-	-	10,973	1,170
Repairs and redecorations	13	921	-	-	-	921	2,525
Asset purchases	14	-	-	-	-	-	-
		<b>92,619</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>92,619</b>	<b>77,347</b>
<b>Cost of generating funds</b>	15	<b>12,296</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>12,380</b>	<b>9,408</b>
<b>Governance costs</b>	16	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Other Outgoing Resources costs</b>	16	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>		<b>104,915</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>104,999</b>	<b>86,755</b>
<b>Excess of receipts over payments</b>		<b>(707)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>444</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(263)</b>	<b>4,166</b>
Transfers between funds	17	(3,500)	-	3,500	-	-	-
		<b>(4,207)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,944</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(263)</b>	<b>4,166</b>
Sale/(purchase) of investments		-	-	-	-	-	-
Cash at bank and in hand at 1 Jan		29,232	-	14,725	-	43,957	39,791
Cash at bank and in hand at 31 Dec		<b>25,025</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>18,669</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>43,693</b>	<b>46,187</b>

St Michael & All Angels Houghton-le-Spring  
 Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December  
 Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the year

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Unrestricted Designated Fund	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2021	Total Funds 2020
		£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Cash funds</b>							
Bank current account		25,025	-	18,669	-	43,693	43,957
CBF deposit fund						-	-
						-	-
						-	-
Other cash funds						-	-
		<b>25,025</b>		<b>18,669</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>43,693</b>	<b>43,957</b>
<b>Other monetary assets</b>							
Income tax recoverable						-	-
						-	-
						-	-
<b>Investment assets</b>							
Investment Fund Shares at market value						-	-
						-	-
						-	-
						-	-
						-	-
<b>Assets retained for Church use</b>							
						-	-
						-	-
						-	-
						-	-
						-	-
						-	-
<b>Liabilities</b>							
						-	-
						-	-
						-	-
						-	-
						-	-
						-	-
						-	-
						-	-

## Further Analysis of Receipts and Payments

	Note	Unrestricted Fund	Unrestricted Designated Fund	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2021	Total Funds 2020
		£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>							
<b>All other giving/voluntary receipts:</b>	2						
Other regular gifts		1,286	-	-	-	1,286	129
Donations, appeals, etc		3,328	-	-	-	3,328	6,956
Legacies		-	-	-	-	-	1,000
Recurring grants		-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-recurring one-off grants		9,218	-	-	-	9,218	-
Other funds generated		-	-	-	-	-	-
		<b>13,832</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>13,832</b>	<b>8,085</b>
<b>Activities for generating funds:</b>	3						
Bookstall sales - fund raising		-	-	-	-	-	-
Magazine income - advertising		135	-	-	-	135	1,563
Other events, etc		4,644	-	-	-	4,644	2,387
		<b>4,779</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,779</b>	<b>3,950</b>
<b>Investment Income:</b>	4						
Dividends		-	-	-	-	-	-
Trust fund interest		-	-	-	-	-	-
Bank and building society interest		101	-	-	-	101	92
Rent from lands or buildings		-	-	-	-	-	-
Rent from Masts and other property		-	-	-	-	-	-
		<b>101</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>92</b>
<b>Income from Trading:</b>	5						
Bookstall sales - trading		-	-	-	-	-	-
Church hall lettings - trading		-	-	-	-	-	-
Parish magazine sales		1,881	-	-	-	1,881	1,770
Use of photocopier		-	-	-	-	-	-
Other income		(0)	-	-	-	(0)	2,906
		<b>1,881</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,881</b>	<b>4,676</b>
<b>Asset sales:</b>	6						
Sales of fixed assets		-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Other receipts:</b>	7						
PCC Fees for weddings and funerals		8,504	-	-	-	8,504	4,656
Assigned Fees for weddings and funerals		10,640	-	-	-	10,640	7,581
Insurance claims		1,231	-	-	-	1,231	-
Surplus - sales of fixed assets		-	-	-	-	-	-
Sundry income for Mission		-	-	-	-	-	-
Sundry income		-	-	-	-	-	1,524
		<b>20,375</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>20,375</b>	<b>13,761</b>

**Payments**

**Church activities:**

Missionary giving and donations	11	3,405	-	-	-	3,405	5,128
Clergy and staffing costs activities	8	9,303	-	-	-	9,303	13,353
Church running costs	9	14,182	-	-	-	14,182	13,228
Church utility costs	9	4,635	-	-	-	4,635	6,943
Hall running costs	10	-	-	-	-	-	-
Costs of trading	12	10,973	-	-	-	10,973	1,170
		<b>42,498</b>	-	-	-	<b>42,498</b>	<b>39,822</b>

**Major repairs and building works:**

Church major repairs	13	921	-	-	-	921	2,525
Hall + major repairs		-	-	-	-	-	-
New building costs		-	-	-	-	-	-
		<b>921</b>	-	-	-	<b>921</b>	<b>2,525</b>

**Asset purchases:**

Purchase of fixed assets	14	-	-	-	-	-	-
--------------------------	----	---	---	---	---	---	---

**Cost of generating voluntary income:**

Costs of Church Activities and Events	15	1,079	-	-	-	1,079	1,151
Fees paid out for weddings and other services		10,634	-	-	-	10,634	7,685
Investment management costs		583	-	84	-	667	571
Bookstall costs		-	-	-	-	-	-
		<b>12,296</b>	-	<b>84</b>	-	<b>12,380</b>	<b>9,407</b>

**Governance costs:**

Examination/audit fee	16	-	-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-	-

**Other Outgoing Resources:**

Other Outgoing Resources:		-	-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-	-

*John Barron*  
*S Bradley*

*John Barron 15/5/22*  
*Sue Bradley 15/5/22*

**Independent Examiner's Report to the members of St Michael and all Angels Parish Church, Houghton le Spring, Parochial Church Council.**

I report on the annual accounts for the year ended 31st December 2021.

**Respective responsibilities of the PCC and Independent Examiner**

The members of the PCC consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

**Independent Examiner's Statement**

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention

1. which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; or
- to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records have not been met; or

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



Peter Brown, BA(Hons)

42 Coptleigh, Houghton le Spring, Tyne & Wear, DH5 8JE

1 March 2022

**SPACE4  
HOUGHTON LE SPRING**

**ANNUAL STATEMENT  
OF ACCOUNTS**

**1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2021**

**Accounts Prepared by  
Social Enterprise Acumen**

**Independent Examiner  
Mr Peter Brown**

**Space4  
76 Newbottle Street  
Houghton le Spring  
DH4 4GB**



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name  
Space4 Houghton-le-Spring

No (if any)

## Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from 01/01/2021 To 31/12/2021

### Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Donations	4,163		-	4,163	9,106
PCC Grant	4,200	-	-	4,200	4,200
Other Grants	-	108,406	-	108,406	73,260
Fundraising	385	-	-	385	
Sales	1,319	-	-	1,319	-
Other	432	-	-	432	360
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>10,499</b>	<b>108,406</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>118,905</b>	<b>86,926</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>10,499</b>	<b>108,406</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>118,905</b>	<b>86,926</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Staff Salaries	2,046	35,281	-	37,327	21,556
Sessional Workers	1,450	6,715	-	8,165	2,985
Rent	1,133	7,559	-	8,693	4,517
Utilities and Overheads	254	551	-	805	1,261
Materials and Activities		587	-	587	730
Expenses	124	1,780	-	1,903	1,117
Transport		722	-	722	1,054
Food and Consumables		11,692	-	11,692	19,500
Facilities and Equipment	346	238	-	583	2,502
External Support	40	156	-	195	146
Professional Fees	65	1,780	-	1,846	-
Other		36	-	36	455
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>5,458</b>	<b>67,096</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>72,554</b>	<b>55,821</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>5,458</b>	<b>67,096</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>72,554</b>	<b>55,821</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>5,041</b>	<b>41,310</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>46,351</b>	<b>31,105</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>			-	-	-
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>26,996</b>	<b>23,484</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>50,480</b>	<b>19,375</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>32,037</b>	<b>64,794</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>96,831</b>	<b>50,480</b>

## Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Bank Account 33254356	30,744	64,794	-
	PayPal Statement	1,141		-
	Petty Cash	152		-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>32,037</b>	<b>64,794</b>	<b>-</b>

(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))

	OK	OK	OK
Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £

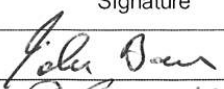
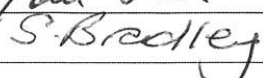
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>	Details	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

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

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	JOHN BARRON	15/5/22
	Sue Bradley	15/5/22

## Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts

Report to the Management Committee of Space 4 on the accounts for the year ended 31st. December 2021.

### Respective responsibilities of the Management Committee and Independent Examiner

The Management Committee are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

As the Independent Examiner, it is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts (under section 43(3)(a) of the Act);
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 43(7)(b) of the Act); and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

### Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
  - to keep accounting records
  - to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting recordshave not been met;
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Peter Brown BA(Hons.)  
42 Coptleigh, Houghton le Spring, DH5 8JE  
1 March 2022

## **Church Wardens' Report and Fabric Report**

Wardens: Rita Turnbull and Alastair Bradley

Assistant Warden: Thelma Steel

Due to circumstances this year we have not managed to do a proper check of the Terrier in Church but will hopefully get it done in the next month. We are beginning slowly to get back to some level of normality after the disruption of COVID while being aware of the safety of our more vulnerable members of the congregation. We still have the one-way system in operation with the hand sanitising stations around Church but we have reintroduced our coffee/tea at the back of Church after the Thursday Morning Service and 10 am Sunday Service.

Work needed to be carried out on the Organ due to flooding of the bell ringing chamber. The cause of the flooding has been rectified and the Organ repaired by Harrison and Harrison. As part of this flooding we needed to replace the wooden steps over the roof into the Bell Chamber with steel steps. We had the floor in church professionally cleaned which meant that everything had to be removed from the body of Church and some pews taken into storage. There is an ongoing leak to the radiator at the back left hand side of Church to which a plumber has been out and hoped to address the problem but to no avail as yet.

The Wardens would like to thank our Director of Music, George Peebles, and our choir for their much appreciated contribution to the worship in our Church. We would also like to thank Tim Cullingworth for his professional assistance in broadcasting our online services. A huge thank you goes to our Young Church leaders and helpers, our Sidespeople/Stewards and members of the coffee rota. The Wardens would like to thank the members of the Ministry Team for their brilliant contribution to our services since we came back into Church and helping to maintain the mission and ministry of St. Michael and All Angels.

***Rita Turnbull***  
***Churchwarden***

## **Electoral Roll Report**

This year's Electoral Roll stands at 125 which is up from 123 last year. A few people have been added to the Roll but we have lost a few during the pandemic and some have moved away from the area. Please let me know of any changes of address or telephone numbers.

***Rita Turnbull***  
***Electoral Roll Officer***

## **Deanery Synod of Chester-le-Street and Houghton**

Since last year's APCM there have been two Deanery Synod meetings. The first of these was held on the 21<sup>st</sup> July via Zoom. The Area Dean, the Rev'd John Lintern, opened the meeting with prayer. It was noted that the proposed Deanery Pilgrimage had not happened due to Covid-19 and that future planning was still "on hold". An election of Officers was undertaken of which the outcome was as follows:

Lay Chair-Simon Wilkinson

Lay Vice Chair- Marilyn Besford

Secretary - Andrew Cresswell

Treasurer-Malcolm Adamson

### **Election of Diocesan Synod**

#### **House of Laity**

Karen Richardson

Simon Wilkinson

Marilyn Besford

Judith Lees

Previously elected

Elsie Forrester

Margaret Whitley

#### **House of Clergy**

Rev'd Gareth Lloyd

Rev'd Brenda Forrester

Rev'd Mark Harrison

Rev'd Tim Wall

Rev'd Christine Britcliffe

Rev'd Julie Wing

The Area Dean gave a brief summary of Living in Love and Faith and it was discussed. This is a book and course which explores ideas about what it means to be human in relation to people's different genders, sexualities and backgrounds. All incumbents had received a copy of LiLaF from the Bishop. This was to be addressed by parishes in the Autumn. Resources were available from the Church website. Additional resources were planned to support parishes in vacancy. The Rev'd

John Lintern was on sabbatical between September and November. During this period the Rev'd Tim Wall served as Acting Dean.

Deanery Synod meeting held on the 29<sup>th</sup>.September

Rev'd Tim Wall, Acting Dean, opened the meeting in prayer.

Rev'd Wall gave a brief update on vacancies. He advised that those parishes in the Deanery currently in vacancy are in preparation for the selection process which is expected to take place in late Autumn.

Living in Love and Faith Chaired by Simon Wilkinson, Synod Lay Chair.

Simon gave a brief introduction as outlined at the recent Diocesan Synod followed by discussion. There was a general sense of frustration as to what was expected from the parishes. Feedback was to be received by the National Church and an on-line survey is available. However, Synod felt that it was unclear as to whether individual or collective responses were expected. Concern was expressed at the timing of the process given that parishes were just emerging from the Covid pandemic. Synod asked the matter to be raised at diocesan level with clear guidance given.

Representatives informed the Synod of their Churches' experiences of the Covid pandemic and their recent steps towards a return to "normality".

Parish Share-Guided Pledges.

The deadline for submission of the parish pledge to Rev'd Tim was the 14<sup>th</sup>.October.

The Rev'd Tim has informed that the Deanery has paid 85 per cent of the parish share.

This concludes the Deanery Synod report.

**David Hann**

**Deanery Synod Representative**

## Safeguarding Report 2021

### Safeguarding Training

Level	Training Complete this Year	Training Required Next Year
Awareness	See Note Below	
Foundation		
Leadership		

### Disclosure and Barring Checks

Total This Reporting Period	Total Due Next Reporting Period
See Note Below	

### Reported Safeguarding Items

Reported This Period	Total Open and being Managed
5	2

### Safeguarding Policy

- 1) PCC reviewed and recommitted to Diocese and Parish Safeguarding Policy.
- 2) Officers continue to assess all aspects of the Parish Safeguarding Policy to ensure full compliance with the requirements. An improvement plan is in place and monitored regularly for progress on the implementation of necessary changes.
- 3) Church leaders and officers are made aware of any safeguarding concerns via the reporting arrangements set out in the Church's Safeguarding Policy. The policy also provides for robust arrangements for the appropriate recording and effective management of those incidents either internally or where appropriate with the support of the Diocese Safeguarding Advisor or other 3rd party agencies.

4) None of the known reported concerns relate to any services or activities provided by Church. All recorded items relate to external incidents reported to the Church officials who are offering and providing pastoral care to those involved.

### Key Activities

Area	Description
<b>Recruitment</b>	Safer Recruitment Policy adopted
<b>Space 4</b>	Safer Recruitment Policy adopted, which has been applied in the recruitment to vacant positions within the project.
<b>Church Services</b>	PCC taking an active role in assessing safeguarding risks to ensure services can be delivered safely in line with ever changing, and removal of Covid Government and Diocesan guidelines.
<b>Associated Trusts</b>	Trusts and associated organisations continue to be engaged with regard the adoption of Church Safeguarding Policy
<b>Bell Ringing</b>	Visiting bellringers are to recommence bellringing in the tower. Safeguarding measures have been reviewed and developing.

**Kevin Bond, Parish Safeguarding Officer**

## REPORTS FROM CHURCH GROUPS & AFFILIATED ORGNISATIONS

Prepared for the

### 2022 Annual Parochial Meeting

#### **Bereavement Support : Light**

Throughout the dark days of Covid lockdowns the bereavement support group was closed down like so many other of our groups, however as vaccinations were winning and covid cases declining, we opened up the group in December 2021, eager to have a meeting prior to Christmas. Initially we received only a small number of clients but subsequent meetings have seen steady growth, with newcomers returning the following month.

Light meets on the first Tuesday of the month from 1.30pm to 3pm in Space4. It is a place where the bereaved can meet and talk freely about their experiences and feelings and become a great support to each other. Light is run by myself and Rev Judith Howes.

***Rev'd Margaret Lee***

#### **Liturgical Choir Report**

Another sad year for many people. I am very relieved that the choir at St Michael's have been well. We have followed the church and government Covid guidelines which has kept us safe.

The choir has been able to support the worship at St Michael's throughout the pandemic whether it be pre-recorded music or singing in the church.

We were disappointed not having our usual concerts again this year in May but we were able to have our Summer Concert which everyone enjoyed.

The choir led the church's big events: Feast Evensong, Community hymn singing, Advent and Christmas Carol Services. All were well supported.

I would like to thank the choir for their commitment and support. We are always looking and hoping for new members. Also I am thankful for the support I have from Tom Ritson, Andy and Stuart.

I would like to say a thank you to Rector John for his support and encouragement to maintain our great music tradition at St Michael's.

***George Peebles, Director of Music***

#### **The Friends of Houghton Hillside Cemetery**

Due to Covid restrictions the committee held no meetings during 2021. We usually plan events to run throughout the year but as the groundwork had not been laid there was nothing arranged. We usually start by a tidy up event in either February or March but even outdoor meetings had been banned. However volunteers groups carried out two litter picks and the council continued to maintain the grass.

***Alastair Bradley, Chair***

## **Men's Night Out –“Last Orders”**

Thanks to the efforts of Rev. John D'Silva we enjoyed a number of Quiz nights held over Zoom! The winning was not the most important part of these quizzes but it really was the taking part. We had a selection of quiz masters, who were, in no particular order, Dave Fulton, David Hann, David Turnbull, John D'Silva and Aaron Fulton. [I think that is everyone].

Memories were tested and our religious knowledge challenged. Music from past decades was revived and evenings were spent in good company.

Many thanks to all who took part and the Quiz masters.

***Alastair Bradley, Organiser***

## **Mothers Union Report for APCM**

Mothers Union started to meet again in September 2021.

We have 40 members , Sadly, Miriam Breckon passed away in January.

At that meeting we all wrote 3 true things about ourselves and a false thing about ourselves. This went down very well, and we all had a good laugh which was needed after the 18mths we have all had. After we had coffee and a lovely piece of cake to celebrate our return.

In October we collected toiletry items. These were shared between Space 4 and the Salvation Army. Small blankets were knitted and crocheted and were given to Amiee at Walker and Morrell funeral directors for babies born asleep.

In November we made Christmas cards for the prison at Low Newton.

AGM was held in January

Branch Meal was 28th February at the Board Inn

***Joan Beattie, Mothers Union Leader***

## **Signpost**

As with all we engaged with during the past year when living with the pandemic, the production and distribution of our church magazine was problematic. My thanks go to the distribution team who, in spite of restrictions and personal concerns during very worrying times, continued to deliver the magazine to our customers in their usual way. A special thank you to our Distribution team leader, Joan Bond and Philippa Elsey, our Administrator, for her input and printing.

As many were affected this year by Covid deaths or infection, my personal challenge was coming to terms with the loss of our Co-editor Roger Elsey. Even while working away in Cyprus, Roger continued to contribute to the magazine with his insightful descriptions of life in Cyprus with “Word from the Lemon Grove”. He was always there to ask an opinion on Signpost issues. I shall miss him.

Finally my thanks to the many contributors who provide the copy (eventually) that go to make the Signpost our window to the world. Our news and views expressed through Signpost are testament to what we are at St. Michael and All Angels. Let us continue to share with our readership all we do and think.

God Bless

***Malcolm Foster, Editor***

## **2nd Houghton Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers**

It was so lovely to finally get back to the unit and welcome our girls back. We have excellent numbers in each unit and have a waiting list for Rainbows.

We had a church parade at Harvest Festival, and we enjoyed being part of the church service. Many parents stayed for the service.

We held our annual Carol Service hosted by John D'Silva which was well attended by parents. The different sections all either sang a song or read a poem and the Rainbows did the Nativity play.

In February the Rangers had a day out in York which they all enjoyed. They were given a bit of independence and allowed to go off on their own meeting with leaders at certain points of the day. Every year Girlguiding celebrate Thinking Day and we are encouraged to think about our members overseas and the local community. This year the Guides decided to collect sanitary and personal hygiene products for Wearside Women In Need. The Brownies decided to collect tinned goods to donate to the foodbank. Daniel is coming along to our Brownies meeting to talk to the girls about the Foodbank.

We are looking forward to parade at the Mother's Day service on 27th March.

Looking forward we are allowed to hold residential events so a Rainbow sleepover is planned for April. We are also hoping to hold a Brownie pack holiday in the Summer.

***Sheila Wynn***

## **Kepier Management Committee**

In company with most organizations, last year at the Kepier continued to be difficult as we all tried to adapt to living with Covid.

Two of our major users ceased to function, The Toddler Group is, we hope, only temporarily suspended with work in progress to find a new co-ordinator. Weight Watchers were forced to relocate due to their National Policy. A sad parting for all concerned as they have worked out of the Kepier for many, many years.

During 2020/2021 our Manager, following the 12 page Gov.uk guidance manual, fitted out the building as necessary with notices, floor tapes, masks, sanitizer etc, enabling our tenants to retain access to the building.

In late 2021 very unfortunately Dawn our Manager had an accident resulting in her being on long term sick leave. This, not for the first time in our history, has left the Trustees and Management Committee taking over day to day responsibility. A huge thank you must go to every member of this team who in a combined effort are managing to keep the Kepier open – not forgetting the residents of the front flat, who are dealing with all the bins weekly, and Bob Wilde who is attending to the outside area.

On a more positive note, although we are not encouraging fresh bookings at present, many of our regular groups have returned, and have been mostly willing to become more self sufficient for which we are most grateful.

Meanwhile we wish Dawn all the best of good wishes for her recovery and Christine in supporting her.

***Anne Goodman***

## **Sparks**

Since the last APCM there have been major changes to how we operate at Sparks. Before August 2021 we sent out craft packs for families to use at home and published a video online with a story and often a song. In August 2021 we held two Summer Picnics at Kepier Hall to test how to begin doing Sparks in person. Since then we have held a monthly service, including a busy Christmas service.

We used to send out 14 activity packs, and there are now 19 families on our e-mail list for Sparks. 6 or 7 of these families are regular attenders, with the rest attending occasionally. The group therefore has a core with some clear routes to growth.

I am very grateful for the support of Anne Goodman and Ros Pickersgill when we were creating videos to put online, as well as Joan Bond for her assistance in preparing food.

***Rev'd John D'Silva***

### **Friends of the Houghton Parish Church Trust**

The last two years have been difficult on so many fronts. As a Church we gradually emerged from having services at home to coming back into the building. However, we were still unable to arrange our usual Musical Weekend in May and had to disappoint our loyal, dedicated supporters for another year. The Trust has been busy in other ways, producing Christmas Cards and blank cards for sale, ensuring that funds were still coming in and we thank everyone for their generosity in so many ways, either by purchasing cards, or giving donations to the Friends. This has enabled the Trust to continue providing financial help to the P.C.C. when major works are necessary. In 2021 we were able to cover the cost of essential work to the Church Tower and Organ Loft. As 'caretakers' of an ancient building, our heritage, it is important that we preserve our beautiful Church for future generations, and it is for this reason that the Friends of Houghton Parish Church Trust in 1993 was formed. It is heartening that whenever renovation/restoration has been necessary, the Trust has been able to help financially, and it is through the generosity of each member that this is possible.

Last year we decided to hold the Friends Thanksgiving Service on the same day as the Patronal Festival in September. The Rev'd. Ian Wallis, previous Rector and Patron of the Friends, preached on this occasion. It was a huge success and gave an opportunity for Ian and Liz to reunite with friends from St. Michael's.

In the autumn of 2021, as we were unable to have our annual organ concert, Dr. Gordon Stewart came to St. Michael's and recorded and produced a C.D. of him playing the Harrison and Harrison Organ. This was the first time the organ had been recorded.

If you are not already a Friend, you may consider becoming a member from as little as £10 per annum to enable the continuing maintenance of this significant local landmark.

***Jean Henderson***

### **Flower Guild**

It has been wonderful to return to arranging flowers in Church. We are very grateful for the kind and generous donations to the fund. If you wish to sponsor a pedestal at any time of the year (other than Lent or Advent) there is a sign up list on the notice board at the back of Church.

***Carole Cunningham***

### **Hand-bells**

During the pandemic the team were unable to meet, but hopefully we will be able to resume later this year to prepare for Advent and Christmas. However, a few members of the team are unable to return, so we are desperate for some new recruits! If you are at all interested in joining us please get in touch.

***Carole Cunningham***

### **Gilpin Singers**

Until September 2022 part of the choir met on Zoom and these members sang at the Church's Late Summer Concert. All the choir finally got back in person to practices from September 2021, socially distant of course! A successful Christmas concert was held: thanks to Laura Parkin for leading the choir and our accompanist, Graham Brown.

The ladies are now rehearsing for a summer concert in June. It is a pleasure to be able to meet together after such a long time apart.

***Carole Cunningham***

### **Young Church Report 2022**

We began this year still online and holding Zoom sessions at the end of the service, however I am pleased to report that we are currently back meeting face-to-face. We decided to continue to hold the meetings after the main service at 11.15am as this suited some of our families and allowed leaders and assistants to attend the 10am church service each week. At the moment, these take place in the Kepier Hall or Community room. Following Covid measures, children are given packs of resources, (pens, pencils, scissors, glue etc) that will be needed for the session. Up until Christmas, we followed a similar format during the sessions as we have in recent years: children are introduced to a Bible story and then a small craft or activity follows. These sessions are based on the themes in church, bible stories and special feast days and services (Palm/Remembrance Sunday).

We still have a regular group of 4 or 5 children taking part each Sunday and we are excited this year to have 4 children receiving their Holy Communion before confirmation. This has involved them following a weekly scheme which prepares them for this special event. The children seem to be really enjoying the programme and have enjoyed sharing the sessions and activities with John D'Silva at the end of their sessions. It has involved parents making a commitment to ensure the children are in church each Sunday and to support them in completing their activities. As part of the course the children have been given a bible which will be presented to them at our Mothering Sunday service this year.

As well as completing tasks/activities each session the children have also taken a role in the 'all age' worship in church where the children helped with the sermon, took part in the offertory procession and helped by choosing the music too. We look forward to taking part in these services again.

As the year progresses, we are hoping to move the Young Church back into the meeting room in church at the end of the main service. This will further develop our links back with the congregation and make the delivery of the sessions more consistent each week for parents.

A huge thank you to parents who have helped in assisting the sessions since their return, and helped to ensure that both the children and themselves are Covid safe.

If anyone knows of any primary aged school children who would enjoy hearing a bible story and then making a craft, please feel free to invite them along.

***Clare Taylor, Young Church Leader***

### **Open the Book**

Because of the ongoing COVID restrictions over the last year we have not been able to go back into the schools with the 'Open the Book' stories, which has been very disappointing for the team of volunteers. We hope it is not too much longer before we can return. We have recently done two stories from 'Open the Book' in Church at the 10 am Service, the last one being at the Mothering Sunday All Age Service, which was very enjoyable as the Guides and Brownies were in Church that morning and took part in the story.

***Rita Turnbull***

### **St Michael's Toddler Group**

We began 2020 as usual. Then came Covid. It was decided to close (we hoped temporarily) to keep everyone safe. After 18 months sadly we found ourselves having to accept that St Michael's Toddler Group, as we knew it, could no longer continue. Almost all our team of volunteers – so crucial to our success, feel no longer able to serve. A quick check revealed an average age as being in the mid 70's – not bad considering that it can be quite physical. So, what follows is a celebration of the last 54 years.

Pre-school Playgroups and Toddler Groups have numerous functions, not least of which is to form a link between home and school. This is not an essential prerequisite of school life nevertheless it is very helpful in smoothing the progress of a child into the nursery and school environment.

Play is the all-important word. The children learn to play together in the fullest ways. To communicate with one another and with adults, other than those within their immediate home situation. They also learn manipulative skills in playing with the various constructional toys, bricks, puzzles etc and stimulus may be found for their creative powers in crayoning and pasting materials, dough and sand play.

The house corner, dolls, shop and large cars and tractors provide opportunities for the children to play out their natural desire to imitate the world around them. We do attempt to make a real

contribution towards a child's growth and development whilst at the same time providing a service to our local community.

In 1967 Houghton-le-Spring was a rapidly expanding area with the development of numerous new estates, housing young families creating a need for more facilities for the preschool child. To this end the then Curate's wife Mrs Jean Baker, gathered together a group of young mothers to form a committee. The first reaction of many people was one of puzzlement; hardly surprising as the National Association was still in its infancy. However, after discussion, the PCC approved the scheme, a bridging committee was formed, and full support given.

This support has continued without question to the present time and is always very much appreciated by all Playgroup and Toddler Group helpers.

We were unable to obtain a Local Authority grant so funds were raised in various ways. Some furniture and fittings were purchased for £1/50 shillings from the Council Nursery long since disappeared under the A690 roundabout. Plans for the renovation of the cloakroom were approved by the Borough Surveyor. The alterations were completed, we registered with the Ministry of Health in Durham, were inspected and approval to open granted. A cleaner was employed, and we were ready to open. One of the first events organised and which preceded the opening of the Playgroup was the first Parish Bonfire Party. This was primarily a social event, but the money raised was very useful to us.

On 13th November 1967 at 9.15 am we opened in the old Kepier Hall. Initially this was for 3 sessions each week manned by voluntary helpers with places for 25 children at each session. Membership of the Pre-school Playgroup Association was obtained, and we opened a bank account. In November 1967 the Bridging Committee drew up a Playgroup Charter. In January 1968 we held the first of many Parents' Evenings. We also formed a Tufty Club – brainchild of ROSPA and enjoyed an annual visit from a local Lollipop Man/Lady so the practical demonstration could be enjoyed. In June 1968 our first cleaner left and the following September Mrs Barrow arrived, was employed and wonderfully remained with us for 30 years.

The next 8 years was a steady continuation of our Playgroup life. The number of sessions increased to 5 and the increasing demand for places was such that we could only guarantee 3 sessions to each child in the 6 months immediately prior to school entry at 5. However, by 1976 a general fall in the birth rate, the opening of more playgroups in the area, but significantly the Local Authority Nursery doubling its intake by ending full day attendance, our numbers fell drastically.

Nationally there was a growing awareness of a need to extend the service to cover Mothers and Toddlers (under 3) – the population was on the move and young families were no longer necessarily within easy reach of family and close friends. It seemed a natural extension of the Playgroup to offer the facility to the mothers and their little ones (with a slight emphasis on the mothers) where they could meet over a cup of tea/coffee for a chat with others with similar problems to their own, or with the church helpers whilst the children played.

It was decided that this might be a solution to the lack of members, and it was. In April 1978 we replaced 2 Playgroup Sessions with Mother and Toddler groups and later added a third all of

which continued to be well attended, meaning that in the region of 75 mothers and occasionally fathers with their child met at the Kepier each week.

Points of interest past and present incidental to the normal Playgroup and Mother and Toddler Group sessions

1. For several years, we opened Playgroup to the public during National Playgroup week and held open nights for parents and friends.
2. Education visits were made to farms, the park and our Church.
3. Annual summer outings to the beach, Saltwell Park, etc.
4. Visitors have included French school children on an exchange visit, and children from local schools on job creation schemes.
5. Constant provision of free places for deprived families.
6. Constant provision for children with a physical and/or learning disability.
7. Participation in funding of such Kepier projects as hall floor renewal, hall decoration, damp course to cloakroom, laying of tarmac and fencing to outside play area and car park resurfacing.
8. Constant participation on local PPA Branch activities.
9. Almost all helpers initially attended a Playgroup Leader's Course.
10. All helpers registered with the Local Authority. ...Continued overleaf
11. Annual Carol Service and Christmas Party. All children brought a small gift to the service to be passed on to the local Children's Home.
12. Annual visit from a photographer.
13. Organising of Fancy-Dress Parade and Children's Corner for Summer Fayres.
14. Jumble Sales and raffles for special events or when funds were low.
15. 2004 – all helpers require CRB registration (now DBS).

In 1996 the decision was taken to close the Playgroup sessions. Although still extremely successful, difficulties in finding qualified helpers and the constraints placed upon us by regulations including the infamous and short-lived voucher scheme made our position impossible. The Playgroup sessions were entirely replaced by 4 Mother and Toddler Groups and so we continued.

During our 50+ years we have survived the building of St Michal's Hall, replacement of the heating system, relaying of the hall floor, building of new storage space and more, but survive we have. Safeguarding, our latest challenge is now part of everyday life; even more so when dealing with children. So, CCTV cameras have been placed inside the buildings and throughout the Church grounds. A simple but effective 'locked door system' has been introduced which can only be operated by an adult. This was necessary because despite all carers being responsible for their own children (rules of the group) a little one would occasionally make their escape. We feel now that the Kepier is hopefully a safe environment for the Toddlers and are very grateful to the Kepier Management for all their support in facilitating the improvements.

I guess that part of our appeal for both staff and visitors was our stability and constancy. We were always there, and everyone made welcome. Our 'Kepier Special' coffee was always available with tea, orange and biscuits, and the chairs, tables, toys and games were out in readiness. We partied at Christmas and enjoyed chocolate eggs at Easter and each year helped to swell Church funds by running a 'pre-loved' toy stall kindly contributed to by our

carers as they clear out ready for Christmas.

So, as we celebrate the years of service, we reflect that almost 200 volunteers (male and female) have served as helpers, looking after the several thousand children that have passed through our hands, many of whom went on to bring their own children to join us. We have been so fortunate in having dedicated volunteers overseen by hardworking co-ordinators, who have week by week, month by month and in quite a few cases, year by year, given of their time and talents to enable us to continue.

The end of an era? Yes, but hopefully not the end of a Toddler Group at the Kepier. Discussions with St Michal's Church, other groups, parents and carers are in progress to see if a way forward can be found to allow continuation in some form. As they say, 'watch this space'. So, we are where we are – remember without Covid we would still be functioning. An enormous THANK YOU to our Church, the Kepier, all the helpers and last but not least our Toddler families for the last amazing 54 years.

“A JOB WELL DONE”

**Anne Goodman**

***Post Script from the Rector:** We were delighted in October to hold a Service of Thanksgiving for our Toddlers Group in church and to celebrate together and before God all that has been achieved through the Group for the people of Houghton. At the service, I was pleased to be able, in a small way, to say thankyou to our volunteer leaders for their dedication and commitment over the years. We are really excited that, at time of writing, we are relaunching our St Michael's Toddler group under the management of our Space4 Community project with many of our previous volunteers still being able to help out at the group!*

### **Space4 Community Project**

*Where we have been*

Space4 serves to create a place where community can flourish across Houghton-le-Spring. Last year, as our previous annual report mentioned, we faced great challenges to our goal of continually shining a light of hope and offering security to those in our patch. That said, through the dedication and commitment of our community; kind donations from members of the public; and additional corporate sponsorship we were able to continually operate as a little oasis in the Coalfields of Sunderland!

Perhaps most celebratory; between July and December last year we served 1015 people through emergency food-relief via food-parcels – with many receiving a delivery service. What would normally be our daily drop-in provision transitioned online to serve as a contact point for fostering friendships and community. Through new relationships and working in partnership we were even able to offer a three course Christmas Day Meal – without charge, to anyone that wanted to join us. Truly a remarkable feat!

*Where we are now*

God willing, the lockdowns and restrictions are all behind us. Our Daily-Drop in has returned to in-person provision operating six times a week. At time of writing, each we are seeing monthly visitor footfall of 546 people! Our bespoke groups, such as Wednesday crafts, have returned with vigour as we seek to most effectively fill the Space4 Hub diary. We are beginning to launch workshops to encourage us all in maintaining our own mental health and we look forward to free cookery classes in the future. External organisations such as AGEUK and Sharp now use our Space4 Hub as a client contact point.

While we still, and will always, provide free-emergency food for those in our community we have also been able to pilot our community store. Here, you are invited to come browse our shelves and take any 10 items for a suggested donation. It is a pay-what-you-can pay-what-you-feel service. So far, since our November inception to time of writing, 715 people have benefited from this service which coincides as the venue for our returning uniform shop. We have even gone as far as to develop our own community cook-book and recipe cards! A remaining challenge has been re-engaging with children after the pandemic. Fortunately, our Tuesday Treat event is an after-school club with meal and activity provided where we hope to have upwards of 50 attendees each week.

### *Where we are going*

Soon we will re-launch the historically successful St Michael's Toddler group at Keiper Hall. We hope to continually grow in size across our project and get back to activities that were once so normal – such as trips away to see the wonders of the North East.

In summary, there is so much happiness, health and well-being across Space4.

Can I encourage you to pop-down to our Hub or Community Store and see for yourself.

Got a spare hour a week? Why not consider joining the team.

***Daniel Alcock, Operations Manager.***

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# Accounts

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St Michael & All Angels  
Houghton-le-Spring

# ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING 2021

Sunday 16th May  
11.15 am





**St Michael & All Angels Parish Church, Houghton-le-Spring**  
**Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church Meeting**  
**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

**AGENDA**

**MEETING OF PARISHIONERS:**

- 1. Prayers**
- 2. Apologies** for Absence
- 3. Minutes** of meeting held on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2020
- 4. Election** of Church Wardens

**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING:**

- 1. Minutes** of Meeting held on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2020 and matters arising.
- 2. Notification** of any other items of business
- 3. Electoral Roll Report and Parish Statistics**
- 4. Rector's Report**
- 5. Presentation of Annual Report for 2020**
  - Annual Accounts, Treasurer's Reports, Independent Examiner's Report
  - Church Wardens' Reports and Fabric Reports
  - Deanery Synod Report
  - PCC Secretary's Report
  - Safeguarding Report
  - Reports from the Church Affiliated Organisations
- 6. Elections** Assistant Church Wardens; Parochial Church Council Members.
- 7. Appointments** Electoral Roll Officer; Gift Aid Officer; Sidespersons; Independent Examiner of Church Accounts; PCC Representation for Readers and Pastoral Assistants
- 8. 'Looking forward'** by the Rector
- 9. Any other business**

*There will be an initial meeting of the PCC immediately after the APCM, to appoint Church Officers (Secretary, Treasurer, Vice Chair, Safeguarding Officer) and agree date of next PCC.*

## **Minutes of the 96<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of Parishioners**

### **ST. MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS PARISH CHURCH, HOUGHTON-LE-SPRING**

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

In attendance

Priest-in-Charge Reverend John Barron, Curate John d'Silva and 26 Parishioners: 13 physically present in Church; 13 present virtually on Zoom/dial-in.

1. The Rector welcomed everyone – those in Church, those on Zoom - to the meeting. He commented that the Annual Report had been made available on-line, and that some hard copies were available in Church. Additional hard copies could be obtained from the Parish Administrator.
2. Curate John opened the meeting in prayer.
3. Apologies for absence were received from: Kathleen Armour, Paul Armour, Kevin Bond.
4. The Minutes of the meeting held on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2019, having been circulated, were taken as read. They were confirmed and signed.

#### **5. Election of Church Wardens**

The Rector had received two nominations for the office of Church Warden: Rita Turnbull and Alastair Bradley. Both Rita and Alastair were elected unanimously to serve as Church Wardens until the 2021 APCM. They were thanked and congratulated.

On behalf of himself, the PCC and the Church community, the Rector expressed thanks and gratitude to John Lambton for his years of service as Church Warden. John's contribution had been greatly appreciated.

**This concluded the meeting of Parishioners**

## **Minutes of the ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING held on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

Those present had had access to a copy of the 2020 Annual Report, either on-line or in hard copy, and the Rector guided them through the Report as follows:

- 1. The Minutes** of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2019, having been circulated, were taken as read. They were unanimously accepted and were signed as a true record. There were no matters arising.
  
- 2. No other items of business were notified.**
  
- 3. Electoral Roll and Parish Statistics**
  - a) Electoral Roll - The current number on the electoral roll is 131, an increase of 2 over last year. Typically, the electoral roll grows as the year progresses.
  
  - b) Parish statistics - The Rector stressed the care which goes into ensuring the figures are accurate. He highlighted some of the key statistics: our worshipping community numbers 143; usual Sunday numbers are 93 adults, 5 children; last October (formal count always taken in October) average weekly attendance was 152 (similar to previous year); St Michael's holds a significant number of occasional offices (in 2019 48 baptisms, 11 weddings, 40 funerals in Church); attendance on Christmas Eve/Day was 432 (similar to previous year). The statistics are on public view. There were no questions.

### **4. Rector's Report**

'I still feel deeply privileged to be the Rector of St Michael and All Angels. Being new to the parish has given me the opportunity to see the place with fresh eyes and I've seen so many strengths in our church.

We have a very gifted community with a wide variety of talents and a hugely committed 'core' in our congregation that have a 'can do' attitude in the face of the challenges and opportunities associated with being church in a place such as this.

We have great variety and flexibility in our worship styles with a dedicated team of ministers and a gifted traditional choir and contemporary music group. We have a big heart for being a caring and inclusive community and I have seen people's lives transformed through their involvement in our community.

We have great engagement with many parts of our wider community through our Space4 project and in so many other ways such as involvement in Houghton Feast, our 'Open the Book' teams and the Toddler Group.

We have a traditional legacy of being a church committed to serving our local community and that service continues very much in our present.

I've also seen a number of 'opportunities' for us as church in my first months.

We identified a gap in our financial plan and we took a number of what I regard as successful actions to address this. We also looked at our governance structures and how to help PCC to carry out their role as trustees for the church, introducing some sub-committees

During the year, we spent time looking at our 'Space4' community project and revisiting our vision and values and it felt to me that there was a strong 'reconnection' between our church and our project as well as a strong commitment to the future of the project.

Last year saw the agreement of the updated Deanery Plan with reduced clergy numbers across local parishes including our own and this is something that will feature in the coming months and years.

Finally, the pandemic has, of course, had a big impact on our church life since last year and I'll say a little more on that further in the agenda.'

## **5. Presentation of Annual Report for 2020**

### **a) Annual Accounts, Treasurer's Reports, Independent Examiner's Report**

- Treasurer AB presented the Annual Accounts.
- He commented that some funds had been moved from restricted to unrestricted, where that was appropriate.
- AB thanked the Close the Gap team: the activities and initiatives they had organised had raised significant funds for the Church. Thanks were also due to others for their individual fundraising efforts.
- Overall, it had been a positive year: we were now on a much sounder financial footing.
- We had, however, not met our 2020 Parish Share commitment.
- The Rector observed that our financial resources enable us to do what we do as Church.
- There were no questions for the Treasurer. The Accounts were accepted unanimously, as were the treasurer's reports and the Independent Examiner's Report.

The Rector then referred the meeting to the following Reports:

### **b) Church Wardens' Reports and Fabric Reports**

### **c) Deanery Synod Report**

### **d) PCC Secretary's Report**

### **e) Safeguarding Report**

All of these Reports were accepted unanimously.

### **f) Reports from Church Affiliated Organisations**

Finally, the Rector referred the meeting to the Reports submitted by the Church Affiliated Organisations. He thanked those who worked so hard to enable the many activities to take place: the range of activities reflected the richness of life in St Michael's.

The meeting voted to accept these Reports and the Annual Report in its entirety (with two amendments to the list of Sidespersons at the bottom of page 5).

## 6. Elections

**Assistant Church Warden:** Thelma Steel had expressed her willingness to stand again. All were in favour.

**Deanery Synod representatives:** Nominations had been received on behalf of David Hann and Kevin Bond. All were in favour of acceptance. There is still one vacancy, which will be carried forward.

**PCC members:** Five vacancies (not three, as advertised). Nominations received on behalf of Clare Taylor, Dave Fulton, Anne Goodman, Brian Scott and Malcolm Foster. All duly elected.

Congratulations to all those who were newly elected.

## 7. Appointments

**Electoral Roll Officer** – Rita Turnbull

**Gift Aid Officer** – Sue Bradley

**Sidespersons** – see amended list at bottom of page 5 of Annual Report.

**Independent Examiner of Church Accounts** – Peter Brown

**PCC Representation for Readers and Pastoral Assistants** – Ann Clappison

## 8. ‘Looking forward’ by the Rector

The Rector shared his vision for the year ahead. Key points were:

- This was a strange time for the APCM –  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way through the year! The Covid-19 pandemic had changed so many things.
- The year had been challenging, but people had risen to the challenge, caring for each other and the wider community.
- Many activities had gone on-line: Church Services; book club; PCC meetings; the choir’s musical contribution; Signpost.
- We had all had to grapple with technology to keep Church going.
- Space4 had continued to reach out with on-line activities. Demand for the foodbank had grown phenomenally.
- We have a new Space4 Manager who will help us reshape the future of the project.
- Finances – thanks to fundraising efforts last year, we started the year on a firmer financial footing but we anticipate a gap of £7,000 in 2021 so will be asking Close the Gap and the Next 900 team to help close that gap.
- The Rector posed the question ‘how will we be Church’ as we coexist with the virus. He painted the image of St Michael’s as a sailing boat setting off on a journey. Where is the wind directing it? For us as Church, God is the wind: we need to be aware continually of where God is leading us.
- We all have a role in this. The Rector’s role is to encourage us, as spiritual leader.
- The Rector finished by saying that it was his privilege to continue, with the Church community, the work which had been done at St Michael and All Angels over so many centuries.

## 9. Any other business

Jean Henderson offered thanks on behalf of the Church to the Rector and the Ministry Team for all they had done to keep Church alive in this place during this challenging year.

There being no other business, the APCM closed with the Grace.

## Parochial Church Council 2019-20

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical, as well as the maintenance and upkeep of the ancient building. The PCC meets monthly throughout the year and may hold extraordinary meetings as and when they are required.

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

The Standing Committee of the PCC is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the PCC. The Standing Committee consists of the Rector, Church Wardens, Assistant Wardens, Treasurer and Secretary.

During the past year, the following served as members of the PCC:

<b>Incumbent Curate</b>	Reverend John Barron Reverend John d’Silva
<b>Church Wardens</b>	Rita Turnbull, Alastair Bradley
<b>Asst. Church Warden</b>	Thelma Steel
<b>Treasurer, Gift Aid Officer</b>	Sue Bradley
<b>Secretary</b>	Angela Slater
<b>Safeguarding Officer</b>	Kevin Bond
<b>Readers’ Representative</b>	Anne Clappison
<b>Deanery Synod Representatives</b>	David Hann, Dian Scott, Kevin Bond Term of Office 2020-23
<b>Elected members</b>	Malcolm Foster, Brian Scott, Clare Taylor Term of Office 2020-23
	Kathleen Close, Dian Scott, Lynn Scott Term of Office 2019-22
	Carole Cunningham, Sheila Foster, David Turnbull Term of Office 2018-21
<b>Co-opted members</b>	George Peebles <b>Director of Music</b>  Reverend Margaret Lee, Reverend Judith Howes, Susan Elsey, Simon Hardy Term of Office 2020-23

### Sidespersons:

Kathleen Armour; Kevin Bond, Alastair Bradley; Jerry Clish; Joan Findlayson; Sheila Gamble; Evelyn Garbutt; Simon Hardy; Elaine Harkness; June Hibbert; Norman Lindsay; Joan Moore; Audrey Purvis; Doreen Stoker; Rita Turnbull; Paul Armour; Pauline Coulson; Jean Henderson; Janet Rooks; Joan Bond; Betty Brown; Emily Forester; Marie Henderson; Catherine Moore; Marion Sleeman; David Turnbull.



## **A Year in Numbers:** some facts and figures from our Mission Statistics

The covid pandemic meant that our church building was closed for a good part of the year and we had significant restrictions in place in the periods when our building was open. This has, of course, had an impact on the numbers that we report in our mission statistics - while some of these numbers are a 'one-off' due to covid, others show a continuing trend. All are important context as we look to the future.

The number of parishioners on the Electoral Roll was 123, compared to 129 in the previous year. Our 'Worshipping Community' (those who were in contact with church, through on-line services or pastoral contact) was 124 people (compared to 143 in previous year). We had a number who sadly are no longer worshipping with us, including a number of dearly loved members of our church family who died during the year. We also had some people join us in the year, including a number of people who are worshipping with us for the first time through our on-line services.

### ***Worshipping Community***

<b>Age</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
0-17	34	40	53	11	8
18-69	148	167	37.	66	59
70+	87	88	170	66	57

During the first lockdown, when legally we were not allowed to be in the building, we established some new service offerings using Facebook and Zoom and telephone dial-in. We retained these services during periods when we were allowed a limited congregation in the building - they continue to be an important offering for our congregations who are unable to physically join us.

On a 'usual' Sunday (which we measured in October with restricted church opening) we had typically 31 adults worshipping in our building (compared to 93 adults and 5 children in the previous year attending multiple worship services). On 'Feast Sunday' in October we had 43 adults attending church for morning worship.

In addition to people attending the church building, on 'usual' weeks in October we had 16 adults and 4 children worshipping with us on Zoom on Sunday morning along with 19 people ('peak viewers')<sup>1</sup> worshipping on Facebook. Our Tuesday evening service typically had 11 people ('peak viewers') and our Thursday morning service on Zoom usually had 16 people attending (some on the application, some on telephone). On 'Feast Sunday' we had 40 people (peak viewers) on Facebook in the morning along with 16 people on Zoom; also 54 people (peak viewers) at the community hymn sing on Facebook that evening.

We know that there is sometimes more than one person accessing our on-line services at home and also that some people access them after they are first broadcast, so we think significant numbers of people were accessing our on-line worship.

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<sup>1</sup> 'Peak viewers' is a Facebook measure of the peak number of people viewing the live film at the same time. There are other measures, such as number of views of the film of >1 min in duration during and after broadcast (this is always a larger number). We know also that there was often more than one person watching services on the same screen at the same time. 'Peak viewers' is a conservative estimate of the number of people accessing the service for an appreciable duration.

We conducted significant numbers of funerals last year. For part of the year we were not able to use the church building for funerals and they were at crematoria or in cemeteries. Last year we conducted 43 funerals (18 in church with a limited congregation) compared to 40 in the previous year. We held only 7 baptisms, which were permitted in the first quarter of the year (compared to a total of 48 in 2019); we were unable to hold any weddings (we held 11 in 2019).

We had 30 people attend worship in church on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day with 26 Communicants and a further 30 people taking part in individual Communion Distribution service by phone and Zoom. In addition to this, we had 77 (peak viewers) worshipping on Facebook and 54 people worshipping on Zoom (application or telephone) for our Crib Service, Christmas Carol Service, Midnight Mass and Christmas Morning Communion on-line. Copies of these services were distributed on DVD to 12 people who were unable to access them on-line.

While our Space4 building has been closed, we have worked hard at being in regular contact with people and running activities to support people through Facebook (~35 people interacting with us in a week) and towards the end of the year through Zoom groups (~25 people in a week joining these groups) as well as telephone contact. In response to significant rises in food poverty during the pandemic, we established a foodbank in the Kepier Hall. In December, in one month, we supplied 138 households with 289 bags of food, helping to feed 212 adults and 159 children from the local community. Throughout last year, we were in regular contact with 107 people from our church family through our pastoral care telephone 'cascade'.

## ***The Year in Review - a word from our Rector***

Last year was an unprecedented year in our nation's history, in the wider world and in our local communities. While extremely challenging in so many ways, I feel a great deal of admiration for the way in which our church responded to the challenges of the covid pandemic and for the commitment, creativity, faithfulness and resilience of our church people.

While our building was closed for much of the year, church was very much 'open for business' in all sorts of new and different ways. When our church buildings closed in March, we transferred our main Sunday service to the Rectory and had to quickly learn about technology! We made our services available on-line and also provided a 'dial-in' audio service via telephone for those without technology access. We used Facebook and Youtube, later moving to Zoom for some of our worship. Our ministry team very quickly began providing sermons using audio and later video; our choir began providing music using audio recording and 'Bandlab' to mix individual voices to a final song. Some of the services that we produced over the year had around 20 people contributing to them and were complex to put together. I am incredibly impressed and grateful for the hard work and dedication of our ministry team and our choir (often dealing with the inevitable frustrations of using technology) who have enabled us to continue with worship and have done so in such a creative, inclusive and considerate way.

There has been a great deal of focus on pastoral care for our church community and beyond. Our ministry team and a wider team of people ministering to our congregations have tried to support people through telephone contact, prayer support and through an enhanced offering in our parish magazine. We have also held meetings on Zoom for fellowship and book groups. We've used novels to help us grapple with some of life's 'big questions' and how they relate to our faith; and have also held a number of Bible study sessions on Zoom.

Our work with children and young people has been very restricted but we provided 'Young Church' on Zoom throughout the pandemic thanks to our talented and committed leader and the continued enthusiasm and creativity of our young folks. Over the summer, we ran treasure hunts for families with young children in Rectory Park. We have continued contact with schools in our discussions on support for families with school uniforms and technology.

We've sought to reach out and support our community in a number of ways, for example, through an 'All Souls' service for the bereaved, on-line offerings at Houghton Feast where we were joined by the Archdeacon of Sunderland and Member of Parliament in church and Lord Lieutenant and Mayor of Sunderland by video link; the evening saw us host an on-line Community Hymn Sing with contributors from neighbouring churches. In Holy Week and Easter we had services available on-line; and Advent and Christmas saw some of our traditional Crib Service and Carol Services moved on-line. Throughout all of this we have been very blessed by our music - with

not only our choir contributing but also contemporary music group and the Gilpin Singers.

A good example of our continued community involvement came in the lead up to Christmas with our 'Follow the Star' project: we sent wooden stars out to people bereaved in the year and invited them to place them on a 'Remembering Tree' outside of church – we did this through schools and undertakers and direct mailing. We sent pictures of stars out into the community with invitations to colour them and place them in windows as signs of hope. We had nativity stars in local businesses around the High Street and had a 'star trail' leading to the nativity scene outside of church. The Sunderland Echo published this good news story and enabled us to share something of the Gospel with a much wider group of people at a time when there were a fair few 'bad news' stories prominent in the press.

The Coronavirus crisis has begun to bring about a big increase in demand for the services of our community project 'Space4', with large numbers of local people facing financial pressure as well as social isolation. We had to rapidly change our delivery model from a drop-in on the high street to providing support through on-line and telephone contact and, when guidelines allowed, outdoor meetings. We held groups on Facebook and Zoom including craft-groups, yoga classes, bread-making sessions, an on-line music festival as well as creating 'well-being' films and hosting 'on-line drop-ins'. With huge increases in food poverty locally, we relocated our 'food cupboard' to the larger Kepier Hall and through covid emergency funding were able to increase our management capacity and buy supplies to provide emergency food for significant numbers of people in the community. Our new community project manager began helping us clarify the 'Next Chapter' of our Space4 project aiming to support people with growing needs in our communities while recognising the great 'assets' that we also have locally and establishing the project on a more sustainable financial footing.

There were a number of pressures on our church finances last year – most of our overheads and costs remained but a good deal of our income reduced significantly. There was a reduction in fees from occasional offices as well as collections from regular services, baptisms, funerals and weddings along with reduced opportunities for fundraising events. Our Finance Group and PCC managed the situation very well reducing costs where we could and seeking opportunities to increase income. We are very grateful for people's generosity in increased giving in the year along with people giving up their salaries and our 'Close the Gap' team and others for their great fundraising efforts. While we managed the situation well, we were not able to pay our full parish share commitment last year. In taking this tough decision, our PCC were resolved to make a firm commitment to a larger amount of share this year which we felt challenging but achievable and important to honour given previous shortfalls in payment.

During the year, there has been a lot of work 'behind the scenes' from our Administrator in the (remote) Parish Office and we are so grateful to her for her dedication, flexibility and support. Last year there was also a huge amount of work

going on in the background in the managing of church during the pandemic from our PCC and (on their behalf) our Standing Committee. Guidelines to remain safe along with legal frameworks changed frequently often at very short notice. From early in the year, our Standing Committee moved to weekly meetings (on Zoom) to enable us to manage the large amount of work in running church in lockdown. I am extremely grateful to them for their dedication, wisdom, commitment and support over this last year.

Last year had some great sadness with a number of very dear members of our church community dying in the year: we give thanks for their lives and all they have meant to us; with their loved ones we grieve their passing. We strived in the year to offer care and support to all who grieved the loss of loved ones, through covid or other reasons. We have kept our church open for funerals when we were able to when closed for other services, and have tried to offer bereavement care for people beyond the funerals themselves. We will continue to try to support people who are grieving in whatever way we can in the months and years ahead.

We are sad also that a number of people have left church or moved away from the area in the year. We are really glad though that a number of new people are part of our church family. This has included Rev'd Claire and Tim Cullingworth who had recently moved into the parish and who have become very central in our church life. Claire regularly leads worship for us – both on-line and in our church building. We are incredibly grateful to Tim for his expertise and hard work in helping set up and continuing to manage our church technology. Both have been a great blessing to us in this last year.

In July, we welcomed our new Curate Rev'd John D'Silva. While lockdown meant he had a very strange start to his curacy, John has already made some important contributions to our church life. He has worked with our families and introduced 'Sparks', a new on-line service for young children; introduced on-line Bible study groups; worked with schools enabling families to be able to access technology for remote learning; regularly supported our foodbank; led occasional offices as well as leading a host of special and regular worship for us. We are really blessed to have him with us over these next few years.

As I look over this last year, I am very heartened by our church's response in light of the covid pandemic: by the variety of talents in our people, the committed 'core' we have in our congregation that have a 'can do' attitude in the challenges and opportunities that come along in being church in such a time as this. I am also acutely aware of the great pressures, personal and corporate, that we face as God's church in this time and this place.

Being God's church in this last year has involved a lot of change, often enforced, usually surprising change. As I have sought to lead us through these times of change, I hope I have encouraged us to look to God to help us navigate the journey. Crucially in these times, if we are to work out how to flourish and how to help our local communities to flourish, we will need to look to God. We will need to seek God's guidance, God's strength, God's inspiration. It continues to be a privilege to be the

spiritual leader of this place as we continue to work out together what God is calling us to be and to do as church in these times.

**ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS  
HOUGHTON LE SPRING**

**ANNUAL STATEMENT  
OF ACCOUNTS**

**1 JANUARY - 31 DECEMBER 2020**

**PCC Treasurer  
Mrs Sue Bradley**

**Independent Examiner  
Mr Peter Brown**

**St Michael and All Angels Parish Church  
Church Street  
Houghton le Spring  
DH4 4DN**

**Registered Charity No. 1135095**

**St Michael and All Angels, Houghton le Spring**

# Treasurer's Annual Report for Year 1 January - 31 December 2020

## Overall Bank Balance

The end of year Overall PCC Bank Accounts Balance at **31 December 2020** is **£43,956.75** the breakdown and comparison to previous year is detailed below:-

	<b>December 2019</b>	<b>December 2020</b>
<b>PCC - Unrestricted</b>	£33,003.70	£29,232.14
<b>PCC - Restricted</b>	£ 4,000.00	£11,270.00
<b>Next 900 Account</b>	£ 2,786.97	£ 3,454.61
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£39,790.67</b>	<b>£43,956.75</b>

CBF Legacies	£ 163.33	£ 164.10
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## Assets

The PCC hold a log of all material assets and this report covers only the monetary assets.

## Outstanding Liabilities

We have no outstanding liabilities.

## Receipts and Payments for 2020 in comparison to previous year.

	<b>December 2019</b>	<b>December 2020</b>
<b>Receipts</b>	£127,009	£ 90,192
<b>Payments</b>	£116,826	£ 86,694

An overview breakdown of some of the main headings of Receipts and Payments and comparison to previous year is detailed below:-

<b>Receipts</b>	<b>December 2019</b>	<b>December 2020</b>
Planned Giving	£ 43,853	£ 43,951
Gift Aid Recovered	£ 12,892	£ 12,332
Collections	£ 13,055	£ 3,501
Donations	£ 12,881	£ 6,956
PCC Fees	£ 21,019	£ 12,237
Fundraising	£ 13,959	£ 2,232
Transfer from Restricted	£ 11,329	£ 2,230

As you will see our Planned Giving remains at a good and consistent level, overall we have 113 Regular Givers (41 Parish Giving Scheme Givers, 35 Standing Order Givers and 37 Stewardship Envelope Givers). Gift Aid recovered although claimed in 2020



Income in 2020	£ 667.64
<b>Total Balance</b>	<b>£3,454.61</b>

*(Please see attached detailed Receipts and Payments Accounts for Year ended 31 December 2020)*

There is a Toddler Group which operates independently and who manage their own finances, the balance of their funds at the end of their year was £1,247.37.

I think we all agree that 2020 has been an unprecedented and extremely difficult year, overall we are in a stable financial position as we enter 2021. In 2021 we have agreed to pay the full Parish Pledge of £49,200 which is a considerable increase on 2020, this will be a challenge as the pandemic restrictions are still affecting our income. Hopefully we will be able to re-open gradually and safely and return to some semblance of normality as the year progresses.

Thank you to all for your generosity and support.

Sue Bradley  
PCC Treasurer

# St Michael & All Angels Houghton-le-Spring

Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December

2020

## Receipts and Payments Accounts

	Note	Unrestricted Fund	Unrestricted Designated Fund	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2020	Total Funds 2019
		£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>							
<b>Voluntary receipts:</b>							
Planned giving		43,951	-	573	-	44,524	44,601
Collections		3,501	-	-	-	3,501	13,055
Gift Aid recovered		12,332	-	-	-	12,332	12,892
All other giving/voluntary	2	8,085	-	-	-	8,085	29,515
		<b>67,869</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>573</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>68,442</b>	<b>100,063</b>
<b>Activities for generating funds</b>	3	3,794	-	155	-	3,949	3,843
<b>Investment income</b>	4	91	-	0	-	92	142
<b>Church activities:</b>							
Income from trading	5	4,676	-	-	-	4,676	2,882
Asset sales	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other receipts	7	13,761	-	-	-	13,761	21,643
		<b>18,437</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>18,437</b>	<b>24,526</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>		<b>90,192</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>728</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>90,921</b>	<b>128,574</b>
<b>Payments</b>							
<b>Church activities:</b>							
Parish share		35,000	-	-	-	35,000	48,623
Clergy and staffing costs	8	13,353	-	-	-	13,353	13,595
Church running expenses	9	20,171	-	-	-	20,171	27,073
Hall running costs	10	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mission giving and donations	11	5,128	-	-	-	5,128	8,615
Costs of trading	12	1,170	-	-	-	1,170	1,188
Repairs and redecorations	13	2,525	-	-	-	2,525	8,232
Asset purchases	14	-	-	-	-	-	-
		<b>77,347</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>77,347</b>	<b>107,327</b>
<b>Cost of generating funds</b>	15	9,346	-	61	-	9,407	9,576
<b>Governance costs</b>	16	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Other Outgoing Resources costs</b>	16	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total payments</b>		<b>86,694</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>86,755</b>	<b>116,903</b>
<b>Excess of receipts over payments</b>		<b>3,499</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>668</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,166</b>	<b>11,671</b>
Transfers between funds	17	(7,270)	-	9,500	-	2,230	
		<b>(3,771)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>10,168</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6,396</b>	<b>11,671</b>
Sale/(purchase) of investments		-	-	-	-	-	-
Cash at bank and in hand at 1 Jan		33,004	-	6,787	-	39,791	28,120
Cash at bank and in hand at 31 Dec		<b>29,232</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>16,955</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>46,187</b>	<b>39,791</b>



**Payments****Church activities:**

Missionary giving and donations	11	5,128	-	-	-	5,128	8,615
Clergy and staffing costs activities	8	13,353	-	-	-	13,353	13,595
Church running costs	9	13,228	-	-	-	13,228	16,244
Church utility costs	9	6,943	-	-	-	6,943	10,829
Hall running costs	10	-	-	-	-	-	-
Costs of trading	12	1,170	-	-	-	1,170	1,188
		<b>39,822</b>	-	-	-	<b>39,822</b>	<b>50,472</b>

**Major repairs and building works: 13**

Church major repairs		-	-	-	-	-	8,232
Hall + major repairs		2,525	-	-	-	2,525	-
New building costs		-	-	-	-	-	-
		<b>2,525</b>	-	-	-	<b>2,525</b>	<b>8,232</b>

**Asset purchases:**

Purchase of fixed assets	14	-	-	-	-	-	-
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**Cost of generating voluntary income: 15**

Fund raising activities		1,151	-	-	-	1,151	838
Fees paid out for weddings and other services		7,685	-	-	-	7,685	8,028
Investment management costs		511	-	61	-	571	711
Bookstall costs		-	-	-	-	-	-
		<b>9,346</b>	-	<b>61</b>	-	<b>9,407</b>	<b>9,576</b>

**Governance costs:**

Examination/audit fee	16	-	-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-	-

**Other Outgoing Resources:**

Other Outgoing Resources:		-	-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-	-

**Independent Examiner's Report to the members of St Michael and all Angels Parish Church, Houghton le Spring, Parochial Church Council.**

I report on the annual accounts for the year ended 31st December 2020.

**Respective responsibilities of the PCC and Independent Examiner**

The members of the PCC consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

**Independent Examiner's Statement**

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention

1. which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; or
- to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records have not been met; or

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



Peter Brown, BA(Hons)

42 Coptleigh, Houghton le Spring, Tyne & Wear, DH5 8JE

26 February 2021

**SPACE4**  
**HOUGHTON LE SPRING**

**ANNUAL STATEMENT**  
**OF ACCOUNTS**

**1 JANUARY - 31 DECEMBER 2020**

**Independent Examiner**  
**Mr Peter Brown**

**Space4**  
**76 Newbottle Street**  
**Houghton le Spring**  
**DH4 4GB**



**Receipts and payments accounts**

For the period from	Period start date 01/01/2020	To	Period end date 31/12/2020
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**Section A Receipts and payments**

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Donations	9,106	-	-	9,106	4,555
PCC Grant	4,200	-	-	4,200	4,200
Other Grants	-	73,260	-	73,260	15,629
Fundraising	-	-	-	-	302
Other	360	-	-	360	1,671
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>13,666</b>	<b>73,260</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>86,926</b>	<b>26,357</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>13,666</b>	<b>73,260</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>86,926</b>	<b>26,357</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Staff Salaries	3,082	18,696	-	21,778	16,603
Sessional Workers		2,985		2,985	
Rent		4,517		4,517	4,264
Utilities and Overheads	452	809	-	1,261	1,789
Materials and Activities	60	219	-	279	698
Expenses	219	898	-	1,117	-
Transport	-	1,054	-	1,054	-
Food and Consumables	700	19,027	-	19,727	-
Facilities and Equipment	120	2,382	-	2,502	3,090
External Support	-	146	-	146	-
Furniture				-	1,272
Other	455	-	-	455	3,449
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>5,088</b>	<b>50,733</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>55,821</b>	<b>31,165</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>5,088</b>	<b>50,733</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>55,821</b>	<b>31,165</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>8,578</b>	<b>22,527</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>31,105</b>	<b>- 4,808</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	<b>2,894</b>	<b>- 2,894</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>16,480</b>	<b>2,894</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>19,374</b>	<b>24,183</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>27,952</b>	<b>22,527</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>50,479</b>	<b>19,375</b>

## Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Bank Account 33254356	27,256	22,527	-
	PayPal Statement	660		-
	Petty Cash	37		-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>27,952</b>	<b>22,527</b>	<b>-</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		<b>Unrestricted funds to nearest £</b>	<b>Restricted funds to nearest £</b>	<b>Endowment funds to nearest £</b>
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>	<b>Details</b>	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Details</b>	<b>Fund to which asset belongs</b>	<b>Cost (optional)</b>	<b>Current value (optional)</b>
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
	<b>Details</b>	<b>Fund to which asset belongs</b>	<b>Cost (optional)</b>	<b>Current value (optional)</b>
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
	<b>Details</b>	<b>Fund to which liability relates</b>	<b>Amount due (optional)</b>	<b>When due (optional)</b>
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name		Date of approval

# Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts

Report to the Management Committee of Space 4 on the accounts for the year ended 31st. December 2020.

## Respective responsibilities of the Management Committee and Independent Examiner

The Management Committee are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

As the Independent Examiner, it is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts (under section 43(3)(a) of the Act);
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 43(7)(b) of the Act); and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

## Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

## Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
  - to keep accounting records
  - to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting recordshave not been met;
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Peter Brown BA(Hons.)  
42 Coptleigh, Houghton le Spring, DH5 8JE  
26 February 2021

## **Electoral Roll Report**

The number on the Electoral Roll at last year's APCM was 129.

The number for this year, 2021, is 123. The numbers are made up as follows:

Removed from the register - 9 (4 deaths, 4 moved away and one person asked to be removed).

Added to the register - 3 (these applications came in after the 2020 Roll was completed).

Please let me know if there are any changes to addresses or telephone numbers through the year to help keep the Roll up to date.

Thank you.

**Rita Turnbull**  
**Electoral Roll Officer**

## **Church Wardens' Report, including Fabric Report**

Owing to the Covid-19 restrictions over the past year it has not been possible to check the terrier in the Church. To the best of our knowledge there are no immediate concerns about the building although there was a slipped tile which was causing a leak that has now been repaired. There is still some water ingress, in extreme weather conditions, around the tower and estimates will be sought to carry out this work in the summer months.

A video camera was purchased to assist in the broadcasting of Church services and Tim Cullingworth has enabled internet connection to the control desk in Church.

The Wardens would like to thank George Peebles and our choir for their wonderful contribution to our services especially, when possible, during the pandemic restrictions. We would also like to thank Tim Cullingworth for his professional assistance in broadcasting our online services.

The Wardens would like to thank the Ministry Team and everyone who has contributed in any way during this difficult year to maintaining the mission and ministry of St. Michael's.

**Rita Turnbull and Alastair Bradley**  
**Churchwardens**



## Deanery Synod report

As you will realise the Pandemic has impacted all our meetings in the Chester-le-Street and Houghton Deanery, moving everything to video meetings which has been very interesting for those of us learning this new technology.

Fundamentally, Covid19 has resulted in our planned events being cancelled pending rescheduling or being redeveloped when conditions permit.

The deanery questionnaire has been impacted by the pandemic and further action was deferred. It will probably be repeated later.

The last deanery meeting was 18<sup>th</sup> June 2020 and further meetings will be arranged when required.

We have had a Durham Diocesan Report from Dr Simon Wilkinson and I have included a section from Bishop Paul's address reflecting on the Waymark conference, setting our priorities for the following five years and therefore our Next Steps.

### **Waymark - Next Steps** (Duncan Podbury)

- a. Context: This was part of the consultation on the next five years' strategic plan. The 'Plan on a Page' is the strategic document for the Diocese; it provides an overview of our organisation for our partners and external agencies and focuses our energies and resources towards our stated aims. Our three priorities from 2016-2020 were poverty; growing Churches; and children and young people. Is the 'plan on a page' properly understood? Some aspects are "diluted" for clarity, other perhaps forgotten, and connections are not always easy to discern.
- b. Key outcomes of the Waymark report:
  - i. that we need to be better at defining the role of the Diocese, and that we need a louder voice campaigning.
  - ii. Strategic priorities still resonate, and environmental stewardship is an emerging additional priority.
  - iii. A new relationship between lay and clergy, with deepening discipleship
  - iv. Pastoral and missional community engagement (not just Church members acting as social workers, but leading others to Jesus)
  - v. Greater and deeper communication between Parish and Deanery (in both directions)
  - vi. Better alignment of resources to priorities.

As the pandemic settles so our work as Christians is much needed to demonstrate enduring Love and Grace

### **Simon Hardy on behalf of the Synod Team**

## **PCC Secretary's Report**

In the good old days, PCC members physically gathered for their monthly PCC meetings in the choir vestry in Church, and the PCC Standing Committee – the Rector, Church Wardens, Deputy Church Warden, Treasurer and Secretary – also met once a month, to deal with any matters which couldn't wait until the PCC meeting. And then came the pandemic... After a faltering start, Zoom became the order of the day for both PCC and Standing Committee meetings, and I am pleased to report that the work of the PCC has continued more or less uninterrupted.

The Rector decided that the Standing Committee should meet weekly, as so many interim decisions needed to be taken about how St Michael and All Angels could continue to be Church during the Covid-19 restrictions. Full PCC meetings continued to be held monthly, with the occasional additional meeting when major decisions – such as whether our Church buildings should close or remain open – were discussed at length.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting which was scheduled for April 2020 eventually took place on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2020, in blended form (i.e. a blend of a small-scale, socially-distanced physical meeting in Church and a linked Zoom meeting).

In total, the full PCC has met (in one form or another!) on 13 occasions between March 2020 – the beginning of lockdown – and March 2021. As would be expected, pandemic-related have matters featured prominently on every agenda; and we have continued to give due attention to important standing agenda items such as Safeguarding and the Church Finances. We have managed to progress other business, too, including:

- Developing our thinking of what it will mean for St Michael's to be on the Northern Saints pilgrimage route
- The adoption of a Whistleblowing Policy
- The introduction of a managed payroll system for Church employees
- The future of our Space4 project, including the appointment of a new Space4 Manager
- Updating the Church's IT equipment to support online worship
- Planning for a socially distanced Houghton Feast Civic Service
- Responding to the new 'Guided Pledge' Parish Share system
- Planning for socially-distanced Advent/Christmas worship and seasonal community activities
- Agreeing a revised approach to administering the Garden of Remembrance
- The adoption of a Legacies Policy

We look forward to being able to meet in person once again once Covid-19 restrictions are a thing of the past. Meanwhile, we will continue to Zoom along!

**Angela Slater**  
**PCC Secretary**

# Safeguarding Report 2021

## Safeguarding Training

Level	Training Complete this Year	Training Required Next Year
Awareness (C0)	3	42
Foundation (C1)	0	6
Leadership (C2)	3	2

## Disclosure and Barring Checks

Total This Reporting Period	Total Due Next Reporting Period
3	8

## Reported Safeguarding Items

Reported This Period	Total Open and being Managed
3	2

## Safeguarding Policy

PCC reviewed and recommitted to Diocese and Parish Safeguarding Policy.

Officers continue to assess all aspect of the Parish Safeguarding Policy to ensure full compliance with the requirements. An improvement plan is in place and monitored regularly for progress on the implementation of necessary changes.

Church leaders and officers are made aware of any safeguarding concerns via the reporting arrangements set out in the Church's Safeguarding Policy. The policy also provides for robust arrangements for the appropriate recording and effective management of those incidents either internally or where appropriate with the support of the Diocese Safeguarding Advisor or other 3rd party agencies.

None of the known reported concerns relate to any services or activities provided by Church. All recorded items relate to external incidents reported to the Church officials who are offering and providing pastoral care to those involved.

## Key Activities

Area	Description
<b>Young Church</b>	Safeguarding Risk Assessment developed and implemented to support online delivery
<b>Space 4</b>	Safeguarding Risk Assessment developed and implemented to support online delivery
<b>Church Services</b>	PCC taking an active role in assessing safeguarding risks to ensure services can be delivered safely in line with ever changing Government and Diocesan guidelines.
<b>Associated Trusts</b>	Trusts and associated organisations continue to be engaged with regard the adoption of Church Safeguarding Policy

**Kevin Bond**  
**Safeguarding officer**

## **REPORTS FROM THE CHURCH AFFILIATED ORGNISATIONS**

Prepared for the  
**2021 Annual Parochial Meeting**

### **Ladies' Time Out/In Report**

After having been in lockdown for quite a few months and being unable to hold our usual meeting in the Mill, we decided to have a Ladies' Zoom Christmas Night on 8th December. It was a great night with lots of chat, nibbles and drink enjoyed by most of our regulars plus some newcomers. Following upon the success of that evening we are continuing our unusual Ladies' Time Out/In on the 1st Friday of each month at 7.30 pm on Zoom - and looking forward to when we can go out socially again to the Mill Pub for a meal, drink and fellowship. Hopefully in the future we will resume our regular Tuesday evening nights out.

All ladies are very welcome - it would be lovely if you could join us.

***Sheila Foster***

### **Signpost**

As with all other aspects of Church life, 2020/21 has been a challenging year with many changes required to keep pace with COVID 19 regulations. For a large period of the year we have needed to post our magazine to customers, as using our distribution team to deliver was against government advice. Fortunately, the cost of postage has been sponsored and for that we give thanks.

The production of Signpost, as you will be aware, is a team effort. My thanks go to Steve (producer), Philippa (office co-ordinator and printer), and the 20 or so distributors who brave the elements to bring our magazine to the people of Houghton. My special thanks go to our Church family, including clergy, who get pressured every month by me to contribute copy, without which there would be no witness to the life of St Michael's for our readership to enjoy. May we all continue our recovery from this dreadful pandemic and move forward to more positive times when the activities of our church are reflected in articles that express the love for each other that may recently have been suppressed.

***Malcolm Foster***

### **Light**

Light, the bereavement group, has been unable to meet since February 2020 due to the Covid pandemic. Members of the group have regularly been contacted by telephone, and they are all looking forward to a return of the group post Covid. I am anticipating a rise in numbers from people bereaved during the pandemic for whom the normal family channels of bereavement support have been greatly restricted.

***Margaret Lee***

## **Young Church Report**

As with many organisations this year, Young Church has faced a challenge of delivering Sunday sessions online.

Initially we began hosting our own Zoom sessions weekly at 11am with a group of about 6/7 children who were regular Young Church members. These lasted about 15-20 mins and involved listening to the Gospel story and then completing a craft after the session. The children then sent a photo of their craft to me and the images (of the craft) were shared on the Church Facebook page for the congregation to see.

Since then, however, just as in Church we have embedded our session within the main service. Currently a 'Service of the Word' takes place via Zoom each Sunday morning at 11am and through the power of technology in the middle of the service we (Young Church Members) are transported into a virtual breakout room. Within the 'room' we share songs, Gospel stories, our events of the week and complete a craft. At a relevant point in the service we are taken back to the main service and we virtually share the craft and talk about our session with the congregation - as we used to do in Church.

We have a regular group of 3 or 4 children taking part each Sunday morning.

***Clare Taylor***

## **Telephone Network**

This has been a huge innovation over the period of the Covid pandemic. Following the first lockdown in March 2020 the Ministry Team put into place a team of telephone people who would contact members of our congregation. Initially this was targeted to those who were already on our home visiting list, together with those who lived on their own. After a short period this list was expanded to include everyone we could think of, i.e. all who were on the Electoral Roll and also members of groups associated with Church e.g. the MU and Light. The telephone team includes our clergy: Judith , John D'Silva and myself; our Readers: Anne, Sue and Ros; and our APA's: Thelma, Elaine and Evelyn, together with Kathleen Close, Jean Henderson, Emily Forester and Joan Beattie (MU). We each phone ten or more people on a regular basis. All have expressed their appreciation of the calls and for those who are isolated it has been a lifeline. The system has helped us to keep abreast of the pastoral needs and problems of the congregation and their families, feeding into our prayers. The scheme was also published in the Signpost to pick up those we had overlooked and were not on the Electoral Roll. In total, we are regularly in touch with over 112 people.

My grateful thanks to all our phoners for continuing such a fantastic service.

***Margaret Lee***

## **Hand-bells**

The hand-bell team have been unable to meet throughout the pandemic due to restrictions. Looking forward to when we can get together again.

### ***Carole Cunningham***

#### **Gilpin Singers**

In line with many other groups, it has been a very different year for the Gilpin Singers! To enable the ladies to keep in touch with one another a WhatsApp group was set up in the first lockdown, offering an opportunity for social contact. Our conductor, Laura, also sends regular emails to all in the choir.

As time went on most of the ladies were now becoming more efficient with Zoom technology and so it was decided to try out having the choir meet via this platform. After a few teething problems it has been a popular alternative way to have practice sessions for those who wished to meet. After a while some of the ladies made a recording of 'Silent Night', which was beautifully put together by Laura and used at St Michael's service on Christmas Eve. Recordings were also made of 'O, Holy Night' and 'My Gift, My Offering'. Thank you to Laura for all her hard work in putting these together.

A recording of the previous year's Christmas Concert was also posted on Facebook, a happy walk down memory lane.

In the New Year the Zoom sessions restarted with a summer programme. When and where we will be able to get back together is uncertain, but the ladies remain committed.

In September Nikki left the Gilpin Singers' Committee. We would like to take this opportunity to thank her for her sterling work over the past years in her invaluable support for the choir.

### ***Carole Cunningham***

#### **Mothers' Union**

Unfortunately, the Mothers' Union members were not able to meet during the lockdown.

Our last meeting was February 2020 when 30 members enjoyed the annual lunch at the Board Inn, although it was a snowy day and some members did cancel. We invited Ruth Masters along as a small thank you for her friendship and support to Kathleen Nash.

I kept in contact with the members by email and phone calls. Members receive the Mothers' Union News booklet. I was able to hand deliver to members within walking distance and others were posted.

The December booklet contained 2021 Prayer Diary Dates and a Christmas prayer:

*May God's promise of a hope-filled future comfort and bless you and those you will miss this Christmas.*

*May the Guiding light of God rekindle your confidence to journey forward with others  
and serve the world.*

We do not have any plans in place for 2021 as yet. After talking to some members over the past weeks they all have said that although they have had a vaccine, they would feel more comfortable returning to meetings later in the year if and when the numbers of Covid-19 cases reduce dramatically.

***Joan Beattie, Mothers' Union Leader***

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Houghton Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers**

Eighteen Guides and Rangers had a weekend in York in February 2020 which they enjoyed. We went to various attractions including the Yorvik museum, Chocolate Story museum and York Dungeons.

Unfortunately, after this weekend away we have had to close the units due to the Covid pandemic. We had an adventure weekend planned for the Brownies in April but we had to rebook that to take place, hopefully, in May 2021.

We did manage to meet up with each section during the summer for a couple of weeks but, unfortunately, we were then told to close again.

We have set a couple of challenges for the girls to complete at home and posted out their badges. They have completed the "Christmas Countdown Challenge" and are completing "Home Sweet Home Challenge" at the moment.

***Sheila Wynne***

## **'Open the Book'**

It is difficult to report anything about 'Open the Book' as the last school visits were on 3rd March 2020 to Gillas Lane School and on 4th March 2020 to Burnside School. Then COVID-19 took over and nothing has been possible since. I would just like to reiterate that we have a good team of dedicated people who go into the schools to read stories and to help the children act out these stories but we are always looking for new members to join us. Hopefully it won't be too much longer before we can continue our Open the Book stories and after our enforced absence we will be more than ready to return.

***Rita Turnbull, Coordinator***

## **'Sparks'**

Sparks is one of the offerings for children and young people at Church. Every month a set of craft activities is posted or delivered to families. A video is also released on Facebook with the bible story for the month and a song.

The group began in October and was a replacement for Mini-Michael's which had not met since March. Currently, there are 13 families including 19 children in the 1-11 age range who receive activity packs. Some of the families were previously part of Mini-Michael's and other families are connected with Church through baptisms and Space4. The format for Sparks will be regularly reviewed in response to what can be done in person. For the time being, I am grateful to Anne Goodman and her granddaughters for recording a story each month and to Ros Pickersgill for producing a song.

### ***Reverend John d'Silva***

### **Sidespersons**

Most of the people on the Sidespersons Rota have been unable to be present at services this year due to being in vulnerable categories and advised not to come to Church.

We have, therefore, formed a reduced rota consisting of: Elaine Harkness, Evelyn Garbutt, Sheila Gamble, Jean Henderson, Simon Hardy and Kevin Bond, aided by Rita Turnbull and Alastair Bradley. Their duties have consisted of showing people to their designated seats and guiding them through the one-way system and to Communion, also ensuring that safe distancing and the wearing of masks are adhered to.

Many thanks to all of those involved as without them we would not have been able to gather in Church during these challenging months; and to Rita and David Turnbull for stewarding the Christmas Day services.

Hopefully it won't be too many months before normal service can be resumed and we will be able to welcome back all of our sidespersons.

### **Last Orders (Men's night out)**

This is my report covering 2020. At the start of the year we began a new venue, the Wild Boar! Houghton Rugby Club was going through a hard time. After the rugby training on Monday nights for the juniors, there was no one left in the club except us, and economically it was not viable, believe it or not we don't drink enough!!!!. To avoid a financial loss they close at 9 on Mondays. This coincided with an urge, an urge to try something "new". Throwing caution to the wind we migrated to the Wild Boar. Monday nights are usually quiet so we easily take over a large table and discuss the ways of the world. The new venue seemed to work well with there being a convivial atmosphere. We enjoyed three months of our new location and then..... the rest is history.

***Alastair Bradley, Organiser.***

### **The Friends of Houghton Hillside Cemetery**

We started the year positively, planning open days and events over the spring and summer and working out what form our AGM would take. A special event was planned for Cemeteries in 2020. Fortunately for us all our planning was on paper and we didn't incur any expense when events didn't go ahead.

We have heard reports of local people keeping the cemetery tidy during the summer, making it part of their daily exercise routine, which is great news.

As some of our committee members are clinically vulnerable there was no way we were going to risk any meeting or events during the pandemic. The irony was not lost on us. The Hillside Cemetery was opened up because the Church yard was full and there was an urgent need of burials due to the Cholera outbreak which spread from Sunderland.

We will start again once the restrictions are lifted.

***Alastair Bradley, Chair.***

### **Liturgical Choir**

What a year for the Church and choir!

The Sunday before the first lockdown four choir members and Frances met in the Church to record some of the music the choir had been preparing for Lent and our Passion Sunday service. We managed to record music that was used throughout Lent and Passiontide.

During the lockdowns the choir have been recording hymns at home using BandLab. It's not the easiest thing to do! In between lockdowns, when permitted, we recorded a socially distant choir for future use. We are thankful for Nikki and her expertise in pulling all the voices and organ together. The Church now has a large library of hymns, songs and chants we can use during this time.

We were disappointed not to have our usual concerts in May. Many people have been disappointed, especially the singers - thinking of the Gilpin Singers - brass bands and Gordon Stewart, who all had concerts cancelled.

Many of our services such as Feast Evensong, Community Hymn Singing, Advent and Christmas Carol Services went ahead 'on-line', all put together by the Rector, Curate John, and Nikki, with filming done by Tim Cullingworth. I know many people enjoyed our efforts. While the Church was open some of the choir sang at the Sunday Eucharist, a complicated affair with music, face masks and hand gel, keeping in line with the regulations!

I would like to thank the choir for their commitment and support at this difficult time. Hopefully we will all get back to some sort of normality soon!

I would like to say a thank you to Rector John for his support and encouragement trying to maintain our great music tradition at St Michael's using modern technology!

## ***George Peebles, Director of Music***

### **Space4 Women**

What a strange and unsettling journey we have all been on during the last twelve months – sometimes completely awful and sometimes really quite enjoyable. Our Monday afternoon group of ladies have fortunately all been reachable by telephone (or other means if technically competent) so I have been able to keep in touch with them regularly.

It has been a joy to discover all the sometimes weird but mostly wonderful ways in which we are all coping. Unfortunately some have been, and still are, experiencing health problems, either themselves or within their family, and so we add them to the Church prayer list and to our own, whilst trying to support where we can.

Our habit of drinking tea or coffee and eating cake and biscuits does not appear to have diminished, in fact quite the opposite, I sense, and my goodness, the length of the 'phone calls has certainly increased!

Hoping and praying for better times to come so that we can again meet together on a Monday afternoon at Space4.

### ***Anne Goodman***

### **Kepier Management Committee**

The Kepier building, in keeping with most other such community venues, has suffered hugely from the absence of most of the people and events that are our life blood. Our Manager, following the receipt of a very comprehensive 'Book of rules and regulations', has worked extremely hard in difficult circumstances to make the building accessible in a Covid-safe way, so that some of our tenants have been able to work within it.

Whilst waiting for some form of normality to return we have sanctioned certain works to proceed. A new path around part of the outside has been laid, enabling a one-way system to be put in place. The outside paintwork has been refreshed and a very large programme of repair to two areas of the roof completed. Some smaller inside rooms have been decorated and new floor covering laid. We are most grateful for the determined work of Jean Henderson who, after approaching several Trusts and Sunderland City Council, was rewarded by their generosity in supplying grants, enabling the work to proceed.

Sadly, for most of the last year all our uniformed organisations, Toddlers and small community groups have been unable to meet, and of course no events of any sort have been possible.

On a more positive note, we are privileged to be hosting the Space4 Food bank which, with a dedicated group of helpers, has been operating throughout the pandemic, serving the community.

We wish everyone well and look forward to welcoming the young, old and not so old members of our community back again to our 'ancient and modern' building.

***Anne Goodman***

### **Friends of Houghton Parish Church Trust**

2020 has been a year like no other, not just for this Church, town and country, but globally. Everyone has had to make huge sacrifices, sadly some more than others, and particularly those who have lost loved ones because of the pandemic. The Friends have felt the loss of loyal and devoted members who will be remembered for their dedication to our beloved Church.

The Friends were forced to cancel what was going to be a spectacular musical weekend in May which would have included some amazing new talents.

The work of the Church continues, and unfortunately the deterioration to our ancient building still occurs. The Church Wardens are obtaining estimates for urgent work that is required to the building and the Friends Trust has agreed to give financial assistance towards this work. We can't stress enough how important our members' contributions are to the Friends and you may be interested to know that since the Friends' inception in 1993 the Trust has donated around £67,500 towards the Church's upkeep and restoration.

The Trustees of the Friends decided to have some Christmas cards and blank cards printed during the pandemic and this fundraising opportunity has been very successful.

If you are not already a Friend perhaps you may consider becoming a member from as little as £10 per annum to enable the continuing maintenance of this important local landmark.

***Jean Henderson***

### **St Michael's Toddler Group**

St Michael's Toddler Group was operating as normal until March, but sadly our group has been closed since the beginning of the Covid pandemic. When restrictions were temporarily lifted last year, it was agreed that the risks to our staff, children and their carers were too great to reopen at that stage. We will only reopen when it is safe for us all to do so, which hopefully will be later this year.

***Sheila Partridge***

## **Our Space4 Community Project**

As with many organisations this has been a difficult year and there will be a testing time ahead as we strive to move forward post-pandemic. However, this also creates an importance that projects such as Space 4 continue to empower community and shine a light of hope, security and help to those who need it.

In the last year, the services we offer through Space4 had to transition very quickly using social media as a way of connecting to those who have been isolated. And with this in mind we are thankful for the work of the Space4 employees and volunteers who have been steadfast in continuing to link with those who have needed help. This also includes our foodbank which has greatly served our community over the last 12 months.

### **2020**

At the beginning of the year, we started out with substantial growth, particularly in the drop in and workshops. We continued with our regular drop-in plus further groups that were more specific:

- groups for men
- women
- craft, cake & chat
- ceramic making classes.

In January we had an average weekday attendance of 43, rising to 47 in the month of February, with an average for the year up to the beginning of the first lockdown of 45 people.

In March we had the pleasure of the Bishop of Durham, the Rt Revd Paul Butler, visiting Space4 on St Patrick's Day. This was also the last day that our building was open due to the pandemic and lockdown restrictions. At this point, we were able to diversify our provision and began to provide drop-ins online through social media. The switch to social media enabled us to specifically help individuals as they struggled with social isolation and loneliness and to support them through wellbeing activities.

We also offered general videos on Facebook which provided thoughts, reflections, and poems, and in our Facebook live feature we offered a provision that could bring connectivity and positivity during an exceedingly difficult time.

In May 2020, one of our invaluable volunteers ran a two-day online Space4 festival which featured artists from all over the country giving their time to entertain, which included juggling and artwork.

As we moved into the Summer months, which brought with it a relaxing of the lockdown restrictions, we were able to offer a number of small socially distanced outside events including a men's group and Cake and Chat group, which both met outside the Kepier Hall. We also ran a treasure hunt in Rectory Park for families with young children from the wider community to attend.

## **Foodbank**

Over the last year we have learned many things, not least that many families in our community struggle with food poverty. This issue was further exasperated by the loss of jobs during the pandemic. Therefore, in addition to the wellbeing provision we offered, we also provided a foodbank facility to assist those in need through food poverty. The foodbank has grown substantially with 1696 Adults and 1061 children benefitting from food provision.

One important aspect of understanding the issues faced in our community was to be able to ask questions. Through a grant from the Durham Community Fund, we were able to collect feedback from those accessing our provision, which gave us much better insight into the challenges of food poverty.

## **Staff**

In August 2020 Space4 recruited several staff including a Foodbank Coordinator and a temporary Assistant Manager.

Christine Britcliffe, who led the Space4 family and successfully steered the charity through a period of significant growth, stood down as Space4 manager and was succeeded by Andrea Haynes.

## **Funding**

Over 2020 we received funding and donations from various organisations including Sunderland City Council, Fare Share, Durham Community fund, St Matthew's Church Newbottle, The Soroptimists, Houghton Rotary, B&M and the Coronavirus Community Support Fund (a government grant awarded through the Lottery Community Fund). The latter significant grant proved vital to the sustainment of online resources and our foodbank provision. We also received funding from Northumbria Police, which provided activity packs for families with children and support for vulnerable people to manage mental health during the lockdown period.

## **A glimpse of the future**

In this new year we're excited to announce a 5-year project, 3 of which have been funded by the Lottery Reaching Communities Grant - we've called this project 'Space4U'. This opportunity will lead us into further empowerment of our community through asset-based work with a real emphasis on understanding people's strengths rather than needs.

Over several months of consultation, we have identified three areas which will be our focus over the coming years:

*1. Working together creatively to respond to food poverty*

Over this last year we have acted more reactively to alleviating food poverty by delivering food bags to residents. We believe that we need to adjust this method as it can be detrimental to customers progressing with their lives when they rely too heavily on food donations. We also feel that people in poverty deserve a choice and access to education in nutrition and health. We also believe it is important to involve customers more tangibly in getting involved in the project: volunteering and participation will drive forward transformation, rather than just delivering a service to them.

### *2. Responding to isolation & anxiety particularly among the elderly and those who feel marginalized*

Over the last year we have been responding to the needs of people who have had increased anxiety exasperated by the COVID-19 pandemic. These issues already existed in our community with disproportionately those aged over 65 experiencing social isolation. As we begin to come out of lockdown, we wish to continue to offer a service where individuals can feel safe and secure, but also create activities that build confidence and a sense of inclusion and friendship. Pre-pandemic our hub was serving over 100 people per week through drop-ins and activities, and this project pre-empts the strong need that will occur in integrating back into normality, to create links for those who have been isolated for a year.

### *3. Working with our community to respond to inequalities particularly those affecting children and young people*

Throughout the last year we have been able to begin to understand inequalities that have come to light, particularly in uniform poverty, food poverty and digital poverty. Therefore, the project will tackle these three areas:

Foodbank – With the new format of the Food Store, families will have more choice in what they need in terms of food, but also access to healthy meal plans particularly for children.

Café and digital hub – Children and families will be able to access social activities in both the hub and café, with the facility of technology should it be required.

## **Conclusion**

Over the coming months we will see a return to drop-ins and workshops in our Newbottle Street centre, and as we work through the next few years, we will launch our community store and our children's recycled uniform shop as well as a community cafe. In conjunction with this we will begin to create a team of 'community builders'

and 'connectors' who will be embedded in our community and begin the work of listening and learning the stories, hopes, skills and talents of local people.

Our hope is that the work we are taking on now will be a real blessing to individuals, our wider community and our church community for many years to come.





