

# THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST GILES, PONTEFRACT

England & Wales - Charity number 1135106

## Details

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**Other names** ST GILES PCC, PONTEFRACT

**Status** Registered

**Legal form** Previously excepted

**Registered** 2010-03-23

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

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**Address** Market Place  
Pontefract  
WF8 1AT

**Phone** 01977790448

**Email** [stgiles.office@cofe-pontefract.co.uk](mailto:stgiles.office@cofe-pontefract.co.uk)

**Website** <http://cofe-pontefract.org.uk/st-giles>

## Activities

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

**Activities:** The PCC is a voluntary group dedicated to the administration of the fabric and community of the church. We are an open and inclusive congregation and welcome people of all denominations and ages. We have recently modernised the western end of our church, making it a practical and accessible amenity for the town, with a new cafe and meeting rooms for local groups and the general public

## Classification

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

## Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE, LOCAL
- City Of Wakefield

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£247,234	£200,807	-	-
2024-12-31	£179,740	£153,699	-	-
2023-12-31	£96,369	£91,358	-	-
2022-12-31	£86,146	£104,060	-	-
2021-12-31	£86,769	£100,045	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev Ian Bullock BA Hons	Chair	2024-03-13
BARBARA SESSFORD		2011-04-28
BRIDGET SOWERBY		2026-04-05
Bruce Dalgleish		2020-10-04
FRANK WARD		2018-03-18
Hilary Anne Patricia Plumbley		2026-05-05
Ian Frederick Wood		2024-04-28
JOAN TAYLOR		2019-03-24
Jill Pamela Clapham		2019-03-24
Karen Glynn		2022-04-03
LYNNE DAVIS		2017-03-12
Mary Murray		2026-05-05
SONIA ATKIN		2019-03-24
Suzanna Farnham		2024-04-28
ULRIC ADOLPHUS MURRAY OBE		

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# Accounts

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# The Parish of St Giles with St Mary's, Pontefract



**ANNUAL REPORT  
AND  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2025**

The Benefice of Pontefract  
All Saints ✕ St Giles with St Mary's ✕ St Michael the Archangel ✕ St Stephen's  
Strengthening Faith, Building Community

The Parochial Church Council of The Ecclesiastical Parish of St Giles, Pontefract  
is a charity registered in England and Wales (1135106)

## Bank

Virgin Money

## Independent Examiner

KJA Kilner Johnson Ltd

## Objectives

St Giles has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, The Reverend Ian Bullock, in promoting in the ecclesiastical Parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for St Giles Church.

## Structure, governance and management

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

The PCC held seven meetings during the year, and five meetings of the Standing Committee.

## PCC Membership

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2025) and registered with the Charity Commission.

PCC members are elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules 2025 and during the year, in addition there are a number of officers who are Ex-Officio.

During 2025, the following served as members of the PCC

Incumbent	<i>The Reverend Ian Bullock (Ex-officio)*</i>
Associate Priests	<i>The Reverend Wayne Phillips**(Ex-officio)</i> <i>The Reverend Kate Reynolds**(Ex-officio)</i> <i>The Reverend Rod Walker**(Ex-officio)</i> <i>The Reverend Mark Watkins**(Ex-officio)</i>
Churchwardens	<i>Mr Bruce Dalglish (Ex-Officio)*</i> <i>Mrs Barbara Sessford (Ex-Officio)*</i> <i>Mrs Karen Glynn (Ex-Officio)*</i> Vacant

Deanery Synod      *Mrs Barbara Sessford (Ex-Officio)\**  
Mrs Jill Clapham (Ex-Officio)  
Mr Anthony Williams (Ex-Officio)  
Vacant (Ex-Officio)

#### Elected Members

Mrs Lynne Davis	(Term of Office Expires 2026)
Mr Frank Ward	(Term of Office Expires 2026)
Vacant	(Term of Office Expires 2026)
Mrs Suzanna Farnham	(Term of Office Expires 2027)
Mr Ulric Murray	(Term of Office Expires 2027)
Mr Ian Wood	(Term of Office Expires 2027)
<i>Dr Sonia Atkin</i>	<i>(Term of Office Expires 2028)*</i>
Mrs Joan Taylor	(Term of Office Expires 2028)
Vacant	(Term of Office Expires 2028)

\*Names in *italic* denote members of the Standing Committee

\*\*As Clergy licensed to The Benefice of Pontefract, they have the right to attend all PCC meetings, but in practice this doesn't always happen.

## Standing Committee

This is the only committee required by law. It has power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the council. It also meets to discuss other matters to be put before the PCC and prepare the agenda.

It consists of the Vicar, churchwardens, PCC Secretary, and a nominated representative from the PCC

## Electoral Roll

After the annual update of the Electoral Roll there were 93 people on the electoral roll at the APCM in March 2025

# Review of the Year

Some of the significant areas that the PCC has considered are:

- Heritage week in September
- Risk Assessments on all areas of church life
- The church's budget, parish giving and fundraising
- Works undertaken on the fabric of the church including replacing of bulbs in all areas of the church to LEDs, installation of new wool insulation in the roof and solar panels on the roof
- Staffing
- Parish Share including acceptance of figures for 2026, 2027 and 2028 following discussions with the Stewardship Team
- Revising of Terms of Reference for committees and church policies
- Receiving of committee reports inc. community provision
- Work of the St Giles Food Share and appointment of a new project lead from 1<sup>st</sup> December
- Appointment of a new caretaker from 10<sup>th</sup> September
- Safeguarding dashboard updates, especially related to new role descriptions for leaders and members of teams
- Remembrance Day Concert and Remembrance Civic Service
- Continuation of Messy Church at St Mary's every third Saturday of the month
- Fees updates
- Digital Giving Devices. The 'skinny' device was replaced by the 'Collectin' and a new POS system was purchased for the café
- Toilet twinning with a toilet in Tanzania
- Appointment of new Treasurer from 1<sup>st</sup> January
- Approval of the new Finance and Reserves Policies and signatories on all accounts
- Succession planning introduced for all areas and key roles
- Agreed the purchase (thanks to a grant) of a ringing simulator in the bell tower to reduce noise impact on the town
- Approved the installation of four additional CCTV cameras to comply with 'Martyn's Law'
- Introduction of a Vision Day for the benefice
- Renewal of fire extinguishers

## Financial Activities

At the beginning of 2025 we appointed a new Treasurer – Mrs Samantha Hutton, who has done a significant amount of work in updating our accounting systems. She has been working closely with Fr Ian to update the way that we not only report our finances at the APCM, but also how we report to the PCC who as the Trustees, have a duty of care in respect of our finances.

Sam also meets regularly with Fr Ian so that they can ensure that the finances are monitored closely. Now that the first full year of accounting is complete, we have resolved the teething issues inherent with a change of treasurer and implementation of new systems, and expect this process to run more smoothly in the future. We are grateful for all the time she has put into our accounts as she has used her gift to support the work of the church.

With our account at CCLA our reserves have worked harder for us this year and yielded almost a 500% increase in the interest that we had received the previous year. We also received two legacies during the year, totalling £60,000, and these were transferred across to the investment account at the end of the year, so that they can accrue some interest while we consider how best to use these gifts.

With the increased use of electronic and cashless payments, the Collectin and a new POS (Point of Sales) device were installed in church, and we have seen an increase in their usage, with both devices already covering the costs that were involved in purchasing them.

During late 2024 and early 2025 we were fortunate to have received two grants to do some significant work on our NZC Project. This in turn has had a dramatic effect on our electricity costs, and as we continue to improve the work on the building, we expect to see greater gains in the future.

In real terms, parish giving was down by 13% from 2024, and this was also reflected in the gift aid that we will be able to claim back at the end of the tax year.

After meeting with members of the Diocesan Stewardship team, as part of a new initiative, we have been able to re-negotiate our Parish Share contributions from 2026-2028 to enable us to be better equipped to reach them. While there is some challenge in these figures, they are achievable, and our contribution to the work of the diocese, just as every other parish is important as it helps to ensure that God's work is carried out on a local level.

St Giles continues to depend on its members for support, both practical and monetary, for its continued existence and outreach to the community.

The Church can claim an extra 25p for every £1 given if donated by a tax payer who has signed a "Gift Aid" declaration or completes and signs a one-off gift aid envelope, available from the welcome team.

This is paid by the Inland Revenue (at no extra cost to you); if you are a tax payer and would like to help boost the Church income, please have a word about gift aiding your donations.

Thank you to all who support the Parish in all your various ways; your generous giving of time and money is greatly valued.

A copy of the parish accounts is appended to the back of this report for inspection and they have been independently examined

## **Fabric**

All the mandatory tests, that are required to allow the church to operate safely and legally, have been carried out at various stages in the year. The only issue arising was with the fire extinguishers, five of which required replacement (2 x H2O, 3three x CO2).

**Work undertaken by external contractors** includes:

- New sheep's wool insulation was fitted prior to the installation of the solar panels.\*
- Electrician to inspect kitchen circuit breaker for faults.
- Annual service of the alarm system.
- Installation of a new light in the boiler room.

**Work done in house** includes:

Work on replacing incandescent lights with LED bulbs and fittings has continued throughout the year and is now largely complete. All that remain are the lights in the organ loft and the tower above the ringing chamber. The LED lights will lead to a noticeable reduction in our electricity bills.

A new light has been fitted at the top of the stairs by the lift, and separate emergency lights have been installed in the north and south aisles.

The secondary glazing on the east window was temporarily removed and the stained glass cleaned. All bird netting on the windows was inspected and repaired as necessary.

New taps were fitted in the toilets next to the kitchen. They prevent the loss of water due to people leaving the taps running and so reduce our water bills.

The main entrance door on the south side was sticking. It was removed and realigned.

The children's corner was redecorated due to damp and the drains by the north door and the ramp were cleared to address the problem. The monuments, plaques and memorials were inspected to ensure that they are secure and free from damp or condensation.

The parapet was inspected and found to be secure.

The problem of damp in the tower remains. It is largely caused by the open nature of the design, leaving it exposed to the elements, particularly during high winds and heavy rain.

The battery was changed in the carbon monoxide alarm in the boiler room.

Much work was done on inspecting the roof, prior to the installation of the solar panels. \*

Two slates with cracked edges were identified, but they do not present a problem.

All the in-house work has been done by our homegrown volunteer maintenance team, without whom our maintenance bills would be considerably higher. We are deeply indebted to Peter Lavine and his team of Charles Atkin, Ian Knox, David Malkin, David Roydhouse and Ian Wood.

*\* The installation of the solar panels will be covered in a separate report.*

Bruce Dalglish  
Churchwarden

## Net Zero Carbon Project

During 2025 St Giles continued its NZC journey with the installation of Solar Panels, new Nave and Chancel Lighting, and the replacement of synthetic fibre loft insulation with natural fibre insulation. All three of these were part of a project which was funded by a government scheme administered by the VCSE (Voluntary, Community, and Social Enterprise organisation)

While there were a few planning and red tape hiccups in the process the project was delivered by the end of March 2025 after we were graciously granted a one-month extension. Additionally, while the project went a little over budget, to a total of £1,776.08, which when you consider that the whole project was costed at a little under £100,000 is good value.

Since the Solar Panels have been installed, they have been supplying a significant amount of our electricity and in 2025 this accounted for 5.96 MWh of the total 8.79 MWh of electricity that was used, meaning that we paid for only 32% of the energy that we used in the year.

This has further been helped by the ongoing maintenance that our dedicated team have been doing, and as part of their schedule of works, they have been working through the church and replacing all the lights and fitting with more cost and energy efficient LED fittings, which has also assisted in driving down costs.

In September 2025, Fr Ian was invited to speak at the Diocesan NZC group about the project, what we had learnt and the difficulties that were experienced. The group were impressed with the work that the team at St Giles had been undertaking, and recognised that driving a project to success on a grade 2\* listed building in a heritage and conservation area was no small task.

As a result of this Fr Ian was asked to lead on a pilot project funded by the Central Church looking at how the NZC agenda can be furthered in churches working together. The project was given the green light in late 2025, and work will continue in 2026.

What has been achieved has been a labour of love and hard work by a small but dedicated team, and we owe them our thanks for driving this project home, and firmly setting St Giles, and the wider Benefice on our Green Journey.

## Study

During Lent 2025 St Giles joined the other parishes within the Benefice for a study course focussed upon Discipleship. The course was run over the five weeks of lent and each week there were six sessions hosted around the Benefice on different days and times to enable everyone the opportunity to engage.

## Worship

Regular Worship at St Giles is as follows:

10.15 a.m. Holy Communion

9.30 a.m. Wednesday – Midweek Holy Communion

10.30 a.m. Friday – Midweek Holy Communion

In addition to our regular worship there have been other services conducted through the year during Holy Week and Christmas, as well as the Annual Civic Remembrance service, with many gathering together to remember those who paid the ultimate price for peace. This year also saw the return of our Christingle service on Christmas Eve, which was very well attended, and enjoyed by all.

In addition to our regular worship there have been other services conducted through the year, including our annual Commemoration of the Faithful Departed service, and during Holy Week a full schedule of services were introduced to allow everyone to fully engage and walk from Holy Monday through to Easter Day with Christ. The Nine Lessons and Carols service returned this year, and together with the Christingle service, we saw a rise in attendance.

In September we were delighted to support a member of our church who was received through the sacrament of Confirmation, along with other members of the Benefice by Bishop Malcolm, the new Bishop of Wakefield

In January last year the parish was shaken with the news that James MacDonald had unexpectedly died, and in respect of his memory the choir took a break and joined the congregation for worship for a number of weeks. As a parish we were fortunate to be able to appoint Scott Senogles as our Interim Director of Music, so as to ensure that we were able to retain our choral tradition.

Scott excelled in the new role, and later in the year his appointment was made permanent, as he brought new found vigour and energy to the choir after such a devastating loss. He continues to challenge the choir and in liaison with Fr Ian, is gently challenging the church as more recent hymns are introduced into the church's repertoire.

## Clergy

The Benefice of Pontefract is blessed with a team of clergy, which allows for a full schedule of services to be maintained, whilst also at times affording us the ability to support local parishes when there is a need.

As the new Benefice has bedded in, there is now a settled pattern of variety within the Benefice where there is the opportunity for all of the clergy to build relationships on a broader level.

Fr Ian has the responsibility of ensuring that worship happens within all our churches, and as such, their invaluable work and willingness to operate across the Benefice allows us to enjoy uninterrupted worship and we give thanks for their service.

We are also grateful for the support of other members of the clergy The Reverend Michael Taylor is a retired member of clergy, who is Beneficed with us, and we are also fortunate to be able to call upon The Reverends Sue Hulme and Mike Marsh to supplement the team.

In addition to his duties inside the Benefice, Fr Ian also carries out his duties as the Assistant Area Dean of Pontefract, working with the diocesan Stewardship team, a mentor to other members of clergy, and a Member of the Diocesan Synod, Diocesan Board of Education, a trustee of Pontefract Civic Society, and Director and Trustee of Leeds Board and St Mary's Project.

## **Lay Ministers**

The Benefice of Pontefract is blessed with five Local Lay Ministers (LLM's), Mr David Brooks (Permission to Officiate), Mrs Jill Clapham, Mrs Jackie Guest, Mrs Anita Hayes, and Ms Natalie Vause, who finished her training last year and was licenced.

In addition to this we have a Lay Worship leader, Mrs Barbara Pollard and a Lay Pastoral Minister Mr Alf Taylor at St Stephen's

Over the year, we have begun to see LLM's preaching and assisting in worship as the liturgical deacon, and as the Benefice develops, they are seeing more opportunity to explore their ministry. One notable way that this is happening is through their leading of Messy Church. While this is based at St Mary's, it is a specific service which is open to any who would like to attend, as an outreach to children and their families.

Fr Ian continues to work with them, offering constructive feedback and encouraging them to explore their ministry.

We are grateful for all the work that they do, and how they enhance our churches.

## **Deanery Synod**

Only one Deanery Synod meeting was held through the year and that was on Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> September 2025. Following coffee, registration took place. Fr Ian opened the meeting with prayers followed by the introduction of the Area Dean, The Rev'd Canon Paul Cartwright.

Fr Robert Hart talked about the Walsingham Youth Pilgrimage and gave an update on the 2025 one which is for children between 11 - 18 years old. The Assistant Area Dean talked about Net-Zero/ projects/grants and highlighted what had happened at St Giles.

The date of the next meeting is yet to be announced but will be held at the following churches. June - Carleton Church, October - St Thomas.

Tony Williams

## Pastoral Care

Pastoral care is a central part of our parish's ministry.

We have a core pastoral care team comprising Fr Ian, Jill Clapham, Pam Mercer and David Brooks. We currently provide Home Communion on a monthly basis to a few regular home communicants, as well as those who receive home communion on a temporary or one-off basis. Fr Ian also leads a communion service at Stella House each month, which comprises of a simple eucharistic liturgy and some well-known hymns. At Christmas, members of the choir accompanied him, and the residents thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

This is in addition to the pastoral visiting by our clergy, which we arrange as the need arises, including hospital and hospice visits where appropriate. We support people facing a wide variety of difficulties, including administering last rites, grief, isolation and ill health.

To help us in this work, we rely also upon the strong network of friendships that exist within church. We are thankful to be part of a church community in which people show so much love and care for one another, and are grateful for those occasions when church members have alerted us to pastoral needs on behalf of their friends.

While our pastoral ministry team takes on particular responsibilities, the task of providing support and caring for one another is shared by the whole church.

As the Parish Church, our pastoral care responsibilities extend far beyond those who attend church, and through our ministry where we are embedded, we offer support and assistance to any who ask for our help.

In summary, through our pastoral ministry, we continue to provide important spiritual and emotional support to our congregations and the wider community.

# Outreach and Activities

## St Giles Management Committee

Established on the completion of the extensive internal alterations to the church over thirteen years ago, the St Giles Centre Management Committee continues to be responsible for the development and day-to-day management and promotion of the community facility which endeavours to extend the church's mission within the community bringing benefits to local people and new initiatives to the life of the church.

The committee has met on eight occasions during what has proved to be a very busy year particularly in terms of staffing changes and subsequent operational reviews.

During 2025 there was, once again, an increase in the use of the Centre by community groups and local organisations compared to last year. Income from room rentals continues to increase and reached a record amount of £19,527 compared to £16,056 in 2024 and £14,306 in 2023.

In 2025, the Centre has continued to benefit from the two-year National Lottery Community Grant which covers the annual cost of room hire by Citizens Advice and the associated caretaking costs, and the grant period will officially end in March 2026.

Centre activities during the year:

- The weekly Chair Exercise classes on Tuesday afternoons continue to be popular.
- Citizens Advice service every Wednesday. The outreach service continues to be one of their busiest venues, and throughout 2025 saw 166 clients and advised on 237 issues recording direct financial benefits for residents of £170,068 (an increase of 17% on last year's total)
- The monthly sessions of the Conexus Healthcare Peer Group and the Wellbeing Café are now in their 4<sup>th</sup> year and additional Healthcare group and one-to-one sessions have been held throughout the year including Pre-Diabetes, pop-up COVID vaccination clinics, Weight Management, Cholesterol Workshops and Healthy Lifestyles.
- Wakefield Recovery and Wellbeing College courses including Scrap-booking, Creative Crafting and Understanding trauma responses and skill practice workshop.
- The Pontefract Foodbank food collection and advisory services funding contract ended in September, however, the Trustees acquired further funding for a period of one year. The new funding will cover the room hire costs for the food collection service and a drop-in general advice service provided by Citizens Advice but not the previous money advice service.
- KLH Events held three Gift & Craft Fairs in March, June and September which proved very successful and attracted large numbers of the local community into church.
- Changing Lives, a charity delivering the government funded initiative "Pathways to Progress" project that provides essential support to workless households in the West Yorkshire Combined Authority area. Sessions were held every week from October 2024 to March 2025.
- Diocesan Events including Diocesan Records Officer Meetings, Lay Reader Resourcing Day and Heritage Lottery Grants Workshop.
- Numerous church activities throughout the year.

- Choral Concerts:
  - Pontefract Choral Society held concerts in April, June and December.
  - Joint Yorkshire Male Voice Choir/Mach4 Concert in May
  - Castleford Singers Summer Concert in July
  - Featherstone Male Voice Choir in September in aid of MND appeal.

Room hire rates were increased by 3% from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025 due to the impact of increasing levels of inflation and how this and other factors has affected the church energy and other costs.

The Centre Management Committee continues to oversee the Holiday Food Share and Food Pantry projects based at No.6 The Circle in Chequerfield. On 5<sup>th</sup> April, Paul Harris retired from his position as Project Leader after seven years of dedicated service for which we are most thankful.

The project started in 2018 as "Lunch on Us" and subsequently as "Foodshare" when food parcels during school holidays were distributed from St Giles church. A fledgling Food Pantry also operated from the church reception area on Wednesdays at that time. It was in February 2019 when a grant was received from WMDC to cover a weekly supply of food from Fareshare that the St Giles Food Pantry was able to expand and discussions began on finding another location from which to run both the Holiday Foodshare and Food Pantry operations. By the end 2019 all the operations were re-located from the church to the leased WDH shop premises at No. 6.

There was a lengthy suspension of this vital community service during which the committee advertised the Project Lead position on four occasions before eventually making an appointment at the end of November.

The weekly Lunch with Us meals service celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> birthday in September 2025. During this 10-year period 44,679 meals were prepared for 23,398 people (a weekly average of 87 meals to 45 people) providing a vital service to disadvantaged and other members of our community.

At the end of August Ian Wood our caretaker officially retired after over 10½ years of dedicated service to the church and Centre. Ian, although continuing as an active church member, will be greatly missed in the role of caretaker and was thanked by the church congregation at a presentation held during the Sung Eucharist service on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> August.

The Committee appointed Jon Kowalczyk as the new caretaker on 10<sup>th</sup> September having reviewed the job description, advertised the position, shortlisted and carried out interviews. We very much welcome Jon and wish him well in this role.

The committee welcomed Sonia Atkin as an observer in March and thereafter as a subsequent new member and also gave thanks to Bill Bradley a founder member who stood down from the committee at the end of the year.

Thanks also to Vivienne (Secretary) for all her help and support throughout the year.  
Committee Membership: Fr. Ian, Vivienne Smales (Secretary), Sonia Atkin, Bill Bradley, Ulric Murray, Barbara Sessford and Joan Taylor.

Bill Bradley

## Social Events

During 2025, we continued to build on the revitalisation of our social activities. During the year the social group have organised the following events:

- The Mastersingers/Wakefield Youth Choir concert - in July
- Summer Fayre - in July
- The Serenitas/Wakefield Youth Big Band - in October
- All Hallows Eve Supper - In October
- The Yorkshire Imperial Band Remembrance Concert - in November
- Christmas Fayre - in November

There was a good amount of support from the community for these events, and the social group has worked hard on delivering all of these events and thanks must go to the dedicated team for all they have done.

Additionally, numerous members of the congregation have helped and supported in a variety of ways at these events, and others have helped to operate the café when other events have been held in church past 12.00 noon, as well as when civic events were held in the town centre.

The social group would like to say thank you to everyone who has supported this vital outreach, because it isn't simply about bolstering funds. The more important aspect of this work is offering hospitality and a warm welcome to those who enter the church, as it reminds our community that we are not just there for them on a Sunday, rather that we are there for them when they need us.

We are always in need of additional members of the team, and if you would like to get involved with the social aspects of the church, please speak to Fr Ian.

## Schools

Fr Ian continued to strengthen his relationship with our church school, as well as going in fortnightly to lead the school assembly, he has also welcomed them into St Giles for big events and gone into school to spend time with classes thinking about their faith.

After observing how the schools operated at Christmas in 2024, a decision was made to allocate a week out as 'schools week' where the church was stripped of its chairs to enable larger groups of children to join us for their Christmas Worship. The result was a more organised and smoother week of events during a busy period in the life of the church, and this model will be adopted in the future.

Fr Ian also spent time with other schools in the parish, and while progress is slow, building these connections will take time, and we will continue to work on establishing lasting relationships.

## Baptism Ministry

Baptism services have continued to be offered twice a month at 12.15 p.m. following the Sunday morning Eucharist. Every family needs to attend a preparation meeting

beforehand which is held on a Saturday morning, in church. This meeting is led by a member of the clergy and is also attended by the Baptism Welcomer.

This year there have been fewer baptisms, thirteen as opposed to twenty-one in 2024. Of the thirteen, six were children under the age of one year, six were between the ages of one and four years and one child was over the age of six.

Our team of Baptism Welcomers numbers seven. The administration is ably managed by Vivienne. Thanks to both Welcomers and to Vivienne in enabling this ministry to be offered.

Enquiries would be very welcome from anyone who wishes to know more about the role of Baptism Welcomers. They should speak to Father Ian, myself or a member of the Welcoming Team.

Mary Murray

## **Bell Ringing**

It has been a year of consolidation in the bell tower. Some of the ringers we gained post COVID have now stopped ringing for one reason or another leaving us with a core of fourteen ringers. This is enough to ensure that we are able to maintain ringing at St Giles for now. Training a ringer from scratch does take several years and we would benefit from taking on new ringers now whilst the established ringers are able to support their training. If you have ever wondered if you would be a good bell ringer, give me a call and we can arrange a taster session for you.

We are very pleased to have welcomed twelve visiting bands from all over the country to the tower in 2025. They have rung short touches, quarter peals and full peals and have included Sally Brown returning to the tower where her father rang and taught so many, to ring a peal in December this year. Several of our band have joined the Leeds Branch quarter peal group and are now ringing quarter peals regularly. Jake Burns, who is one of our youngest ringers, is a member of the Yorkshire Tykes (a band of young ringers from across the whole of Yorkshire) and he recently rang his first full peal. This is a rite of passage for all ringers, that is both mentally and physically exhausting.

We have installed a ringing simulator this year to enable bell practice to go ahead without making any sound outside of the ringing chamber. This opens the door for us to teach bell handling at times that we otherwise would not be able to ring the bells out of courtesy to our neighbours. I hope to make use of this to widen the scope for teaching both new and more advanced ringers.

The chimes of the clock are still not working, and we await the funds to be able to repair them. If you want to know more about bellringing or would like to learn to ring, please contact me on 07790 956257.

Adrian Garner  
Tower Captain

## **Flower Team**

The Flower Fairies remain enthusiastic in their efforts to use God's gift of flowers to enhance our church each week. Our funding is from much welcome donations.

We would like to thank Bill Bradley for providing greenery for the arrangements each week.

Barbara, Sandra, Elaine and Margaret  
The Flower Team

## **Junior Church – St Giles 3:16**

Our children and young people continued to meet upstairs every Sunday morning during the spring and summer term 2025, to explore and learn more about our faith. We continued to follow the main festivals of the church, while at the same time incorporating new ideas. Our next project was to go back to basics and focus on the life and teachings of Jesus. Unfortunately, because of numbers falling to only a couple of children a week, this has made our group unsustainable.

We had our normal summer break and after discussions with Fr Ian, decided to put 3:16 on hold until after the Benefice discussions about the way forward. At the same time, a decision was made to prepare work to hand out to children, in individually designed work bags, linked as closely as possible to the liturgy for the week.

This has had some limited success but as the number of children and families attending on Sundays is sporadic, it is hard to plan and prepare for. So, to sum up we are at this present time trying to find the best solution that we can for any children who come to church.

Lynne and Stephanie

## **Tiddlywinks**

After the Christmas break, we met up again in church for our usual service of songs, prayers and stories but, unfortunately, we had reduced numbers with an average attendance of between four to six children. As the year progressed numbers dropped even more, partly due to more nursery places becoming available for two-year-olds, so we made the very hard decision to wind up Tiddlywinks.

We had lots of fun and laughter over the years and many lovely memories to think back on.

Barbara Lavine

## **Lunch With Us**

Lunch with Us is now into its Eleventh year!

We continue to feed between 35 and 50 people per session. We have lost a volunteer this year so when others are on holiday it can be quite a challenge. We are a team of nine from St Giles, St Stephen's, and St Joseph's churches whom we thank very much.

Thank you to all who have donated tuna, beans and soup over the last year, it is much appreciated.

Lunch with Us is an important mission in our community. Please consider if you would be able to help on an ad hoc basis.

Barbara Sessford  
Lunch with Us Co-Ordinator

## **Messy Church**

Since January 2025 Messy Church has been meeting on the third Saturday of the month at St Mary's corresponding with all the other worship which takes place there. There have been a few changes to the faces we regularly see, while some have left the area, we have also welcomed some new faces. The sessions are planned and led by three of our LLMs, Jill Clapham, Anita Hayes (All Saints) and Natalie Vause (St Michael's), with some technical assistance from Fr Ian, which we are most grateful for.

Sessions have been varied; we have explored themes and stories from both the Old and New Testaments culminating in our first pop-up nativity which took place on the Saturday before Christmas. It was thoroughly enjoyed by both adults and the younger members of our congregation.

Thank you to everyone who continues to contribute to this important mission, especially our catering team who continue to serve our refreshments and our other regular helpers.

We would love to welcome you to our team or our congregation so if you have ever wondered what Messy Church is all about, do come and see.

Jill Clapham

## **Missions Committee**

Once again, our main fundraising activity has been selling coffee in church on the second Saturday of each month. St. Giles benefits greatly from the work done by our dedicated team who greet their customers with a cheery disposition.

To add to the funds, we also held a successful chocolate tombola stall on the 19<sup>th</sup> April 2025.

The Missions Committee thanks our congregation and the wider public for their continuing support for our monthly coffee morning.

Eddie Barber  
Treasurer and Secretary

## **Mothers' Union**

2025 was again a busy year. We now have 20 members.

In January we sent £200 to AFIA (Away From IT All Holidays), £200 for the upkeep of the caravans and £200 for Worldwide disasters.

We had some very interesting speakers during the year including our MU Chaplain, Canon Philip Hobday. We also had social afternoons which are always enjoyable.

We held our 'Stations of the Cross' service in Lent, which is always special to us and was led by Fr Mark. We had Afternoon Tea in June and in July we had a lovely day out at Thornton le Dale and Whitby. September saw our communion service led by Fr Ian, which everyone enjoyed. Our Christmas Lunch was a little early this year taking place in November but it was enjoyed by all. Fr Rod led our Advent Service in December, which was followed by mince pies. We are now planning our meetings for 2026.

During the year, our stalls raised £1465 for church funds. So thank you to all who donated bric-a-brac items and tombola prizes.

Marjorie Laidlaw and Pat Whitaker

## Open Church

Open Church is one of our most important outreach missions.

We continue to keep the church open for a period of time every day. This is thanks to a team of loyal volunteers. We have times when it is more difficult to cover sessions and occasionally the church has needed to be closed.

Please consider if you could give an hour or two to this vital mission.

Barbara Sessford

## Serving Team Report

At St Giles we are very lucky to have a small group of people who Sunday after Sunday give time and energy to enhance our services. This is done in many ways. Some act as Servers at the Altar, others assist with the Chalice, whilst others prepare and lead intercessions and finally those who read the Lessons. Each group plays an important part in our Sunday worship and I am very grateful for all they do. But in certain areas we are struggling.

**Servers:** At the moment we have only **three**, Daisy, Robert and Claire, who attend every Sunday and Holy Day. Though they do sterling work throughout year they could do with your support and assistance. We desperately need more Servers to reduce the workload on our three stalwarts, Therefore, I am appealing for volunteers 10 years old or above, age is no limit; and training will be given, to join our little group.

**Eucharistic Ministers:** We have **five** who assist with the chalice at the communion in the service each Sunday, and again, we require more to assist and spread the load, and again, training will be given.

**Intercessors:** Again, another small number, **three**. Ideally, we could do with at least three more volunteers to assist in this vital task. Help will be available if you feel you could join this group.

Lectors (Lesson Readers), this is the only group that at the moment has sufficient numbers **ten**. I am very grateful for all they do and forever marvel at how they pronounce the tongue twisting place names and personal names they read Sunday by Sunday.

I would like to thank every member for the way they have carried out their duties with such reverence over the past year.

David Brooks  
Reader and Head Server

## **St Giles' Food Share and Pantry Club**

Two projects are run from the premises at No 6 The Circle: the weekly Pantry Club and Holiday Food Share in/during school holidays. During 2025, the Pantry Club supported a number of families with several being nominated for Holiday Food during the February half-term. Some of the food comes from regular donations at St Giles and All Saints Churches and we benefitted from donations brought to No 6 and those made through our local Morrisons and Asda. Pontefract Trussell Foodbank also passes some food on to us and we benefit from supplies of Warburton's bread through Wakefield Street Kitchen and Pontefract Community Kitchen. Weekly deliveries from FareShare have been financed by WMDC, but this was ceased from April 2025.

On 17<sup>th</sup> January 2025, Paul and Ann Harris announced their retirement with effect from 5<sup>th</sup> April 2025. The Centre Management Committee decided there was still a strong need for this project and so on 18<sup>th</sup> February all stakeholders were informed of the suspension of the service from April until such time as a new project lead could be appointed.

On 17<sup>th</sup> November a new roller shutter door was fitted at the project's premises (No.6 the Circle) at no cost. We are very grateful to Vico Homes and Wakefield Council for funding this.

Despite a difficult and lengthy recruitment process we were delighted to appoint Rachel Ryding as the new project lead with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> December 2025. All stakeholders were again duly notified of the appointment. Rachel spent December getting to grips with the project, writing new procedures and policies and building links with external agencies. It was decided that the project would be relaunched at the end of January 2026 as St Giles Foodshare and we wish her every success.

If you would like to get involved with the project, drop her an email at

[project.lead@cofe-pontefract.co.uk](mailto:project.lead@cofe-pontefract.co.uk)

## **St Mary's**

It is now twelve months since the initiative of SCM@4 launched. To those who are unaware of what this means, to move the Sunday service to a Saturday at 4.00pm. The services comprise contemporary worship, café church, messy church and café Communion. The worship is informal whilst at the same time maintaining reverence.

The general consensus is it is "enjoyable and joyful". Unfortunately, the numbers have not increased greatly, but we persevere, and while we have had a few people who have joined us to experience the new style, we have had one stable new person.

To Fr Ian, who provides cartoons! Thank you.

I must take this opportunity also to thank those who open the building, set up seating, provide music and refreshments.

We now look forward to 2026 with renewed vigour.

Fr Michael

## Good Causes

During 2024, St Giles was able to support the following organisations:

- Through the generosity of members of the church, we were able to provide each child who was leaving St Giles School with a Bible
- The Children's Society through our Christingle Service.

## Social Media

Web address: <http://www.cofe-pontefract.co.uk>

2025 saw work continue on building our presence on the digital stage.

After moving across to one benefice platform in late 2024 which had just 2,600 unique visitors, 2025 saw the growth in web traffic reaching over 34,500 unique visitors accessing the new site.

In addition, the new Facebook pages for the five churches increased their following to 1,122 people, and with the shared information and the daily prayer focus we are seeing a good level of engagement.

Thanks to Jonathan Harris, Barbara Pollard and Natalie Vause who are all contributing to our social media feeds. We are always looking for others to become part of this team, which as we move forward will be crucial. If you are interested in getting involved, in the first instance please talk to Fr Ian.

The use of Hootsuite continues to be valuable as we set up streams of material for posting, and also for when we wish to post to all our social media to ensure that the messaging is shared far and wide. We have also seen an increase over the past year of different organisations re-posting and re-tweeting messages that we put on social media.

As always, if you have a news story or event taking place in one of our Churches and you would like it to be promoted on social media, please email [jonathan.harris@cofe-pontefract.co.uk](mailto:jonathan.harris@cofe-pontefract.co.uk) and we can put it on for you.

## Safeguarding

Unfortunately, due to recent health issues I have not been at Church as much as I would like. Even so I have continued to be proactive, attending meetings either personally or by video link, answering emails, up-dating information etc.

In the Benefice of Pontefract, I remain confident that we are doing everything we can to protect children from birth to eighteen, vulnerable children and adults, those who seek help through our Church and non-church activities and each other.

If you hear, see something or you are uncomfortable with anything, then please report this as soon as possible to either myself or Father Ian.

### **Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.**

The Safeguarding Dashboard has been updated; we have a confirmed 100% progression for all mandatory tasks undertaken.

Vivienne sends reminders of any outstanding training requirements to all Church Officers as necessary. Renewal of DBS checks is ongoing. My own DBS check is due in March 2026. Completion of this will take place before the end of January 2026.

I liaise regularly with Father Ian and others where necessary, on all Safeguarding matters. All Safeguarding matters are kept securely, always remain confidential and are acted upon immediately. Safeguarding Incidents are recorded both electronically and as a signed written copy. Referrals, when required, are made to outside agencies i.e. The Diocesan Safeguarding Team, Social Care Direct, West Yorkshire Police and Mental Health Service.

The Clergy and Parish Safeguarding Officer receive Confidential Diocesan Safeguarding Alerts where it is deemed necessary.

Tasks Completed:

- Dashboard and hub both up-dated
- All Safeguarding training and DBS checks have been completed for all areas of Church Life.
- Questions asked by the Diocese Safeguarding Team relating to Safeguarding Training have been answered and appropriate information given.

Christine Brown  
Safeguarding Officer

## **Conclusion**

This Report and the Attached Accounts were approved by the PCC on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2026 and signed on their behalf by:



The Reverend Ian Bullock (PCC Chair)  
Vicar of Pontefract

# St Giles, Pontefract

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## Independent Examiners Report to the PCC of St Giles

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I report to the Parochial Church Council (PCC) on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2025.

### Responsibilities and basis of report

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and S1.44 (2) of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the church's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act and the Church Guidance 2006 Edition.

### Independent examiner's statement

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

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

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



**KJA Kilner Johnson Ltd**  
**Woodland House**  
**Woodland Park**  
**Cleckheaton**  
**BD19 6BW**

## St Giles, Pontefract

### Receipts and Payments Accounts for the Year Ended 31 December 2025

	Total Unrestricted Funds	Total Designated Funds	Total Restricted Funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
Note	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>					
<b>Voluntary receipts</b>					
Collections at services	33,806	-	5,636	39,442	45,101
All other giving/voluntary receipts	4a 82,998	-	76,960	159,958	66,355
	116,804	-	82,596	199,399	111,456
<b>Activities for generating funds</b>					
Investment income	4b 3,773	-	11	3,784	27,205
Church activities	4c 27,975	-	16,075	44,051	41,079
<b>Total receipts</b>	148,552	-	98,682	247,234	179,740
<b>Payments</b>					
<b>Church activities</b>					
Parish contribution	31,500	-	2,500	34,000	36,600
Ministry expenses	740	-	-	740	922
Church running expenses	4d 67,028	275	97,103	164,407	110,344
Missions giving and donations	4e 624	-	1,036	1,660	7,491
	99,892	275	100,640	200,807	155,357
<b>Costs of generating funds</b>					
<b>Total payments</b>	99,892	275	100,640	200,807	155,357
<b>Excess of receipts over payments</b>	48,660	- 275	- 1,958	46,428	24,382
Transfer between funds	10,000	- 10,000	-	-	-
	58,660	- 10,275	- 1,958	46,428	24,382
Cash at bank and in hand at 1 January	12,270	69,268	45,551	127,089	102,706
Cash at bank and in hand at 31 December	70,930	58,993	43,593	173,516	127,088

## St Giles, Pontefract

### Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 December 2025

	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	TOTAL 2025 £	TOTAL 2024 £
<b>Cash funds</b>					
Virgin current account -PCC	19,125	3,993	14,428	37,546	22,654
Investment account	51,805	55,000	-	106,805	73,759
Virgin account - Food Share	-	-	16,215	16,215	17,489
Virgin account - Centre account	-	-	12,950	12,950	13,186
	<u>70,930</u>	<u>58,993</u>	<u>43,593</u>	<u>173,515</u>	<u>127,088</u>
<b>Debtors</b>					
Trade debtors	340	-	-	340	-
	<u>71,270</u>	<u>58,993</u>	<u>43,593</u>	<u>173,855</u>	<u>127,088</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>					
Accountancy	3,150	-	-	3,150	1,800
	<u>3,150</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,150</u>	<u>1,800</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements

1. Basis of preparation

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis.

2. Movement in restricted funds

The movements in restricted funds during the year were:

	Balance B/fwd £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfer £	Balance C/fwd £
<b>Restricted</b>					
Belfry	3	895	-	15	883
Hardship	1,465	-	-	36	1,429
Choir	405	1,550	-	2,534	579
Missions	2,459	2,693	-	-	5,152
St Giles Centre Account	13,186	13,590	-	13,826	12,950
Lunch with Us	1,201	2,028	-	1,401	1,828
St Marys	6,907	1,248	-	5,498	2,657
Wednesday Morning Coffee Func	1,099	225	-	205	1,119
Messy Church	842	-	-	109	733
ECO VCSE	200	71,619	-	71,819	-
Other collections	215	1,147	-	956	405
Donations/ sponsorships	80	-	-	80	-
Chorister	-	799	-	-	799
Food Share	17,489	2,888	-	4,161	16,215
	45,551	98,682	-	100,640	43,593

Belfry – Monies that have been given to the church for the maintenance and upkeep of the Church Bells and Belfry

Hardship – monies that the church have been given which are there for the purpose of helping people who are struggling and need a little assistance. Usually a request will be received for assistance in providing small items that they need, this is the fund we use to support them.

Choir – Monies that are received to support the Choir, this fund may be used for items such as Music licences, Sheet Music, robes or anything that is directly required in the operation of the choir.

Missions – Money raised by the Missions Committee which is used to support external mission agencies

St Giles Centre Account – the Account which deals with the day-to-day operations of the community aspect of the church

Lunch with Us - Are funds donated to offer warm meals and social activities.

St Mary's – After St Mary's bank account was closed this is the money raised by St Mary's church to allow for worship to continue

Wednesday Morning Coffee Fund – Money Raised by The Mothers Union to promote their work, and support outreach

Messy Church – Monies that were awarded to the church to allow for Messy Church to be run

ECO VCSE – Monies awarded to St Giles for the specific NCZ Project

Other Charitable Donations – Monies that the church have taken on behalf of another charity and are paying out to them

Donations / Sponsorship – Monies that have been given for a particular purpose and are used for that purpose only

Chorister

Food Share - These are monies which are donated and received to fund the operations of the No 6 Food Share project

3. Movement in designated funds

The movements in restricted funds during the year were:

	Balance B/fwd £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfer £	Balance C/fwd £
<b>Designated</b>					
Flower	484	-	-	-	484
Dedicated Funds	8,784	-	-	275	8,509
Reserves Policy	60,000	-	-	10,000	50,000
	69,268	-	-	275	58,993

Flower – Monies that have historically been collected to dress the church with flowers

Dedicated Funds – Monies donated to church which are there to assist the operation of the church – when these funds are used, the Incumbent discusses the requirements with the people who have given these funds

Reserves Policy - Monies allocated to cover running costs of the church.

Further Analysis of Receipts and Payments

	Total Unrestricted Funds £	Total Designated Funds £	Total Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
<b>Receipts</b>					
<b>a) All other giving/voluntary receipts</b>					
Gift Aid Rebate	8,888	-	-	8,888	9,645
Legacies	60,000	-	-	60,000	100
Childrens society	-	-	-	-	121
Appeals	-	-	-	-	210
Gifts	-	-	-	-	632
Bible donations	-	-	-	-	553
Savings	-	-	-	-	250
Grant	-	-	72,790	72,790	35,042
Food Pantry Subs	-	-	626	626	4,306
Donations	14,110	-	3,544	17,654	15,496
	82,998	-	76,960	159,958	66,355
<b>b) Investment income</b>					
Income reinvested	3,046	-	-	3,046	26,504
Bank interest	727	-	11	739	700
	3,773	-	11	3,784	27,205
<b>c) Church activities</b>					
Candles	1,029	-	-	1,029	1,625
Parochial Fees	2,902	-	403	3,306	5,679
Printing	1,904	-	-	1,904	1,610
Coffee	12,823	-	2,908	15,731	11,474
Room Hire	852	-	12,764	13,616	9,821
Organ recitals	1,100	-	-	1,100	416
Concerts	2,115	-	-	2,115	-
Heating	420	-	-	420	-
Parish magazine income	835	-	-	835	725
Fundraising activities - raffles/tombolas etc	3,995	-	-	3,995	9,729
	27,975	-	16,075	44,051	41,080
<b>Payments</b>					
<b>d) Church running expenses</b>					
Cleaning fees	-	-	-	-	963
Outreach, Evangelism & Discipleship	222	-	582	804	2,815
Training costs	-	-	-	-	714
Food and materials	104	-	3,955	4,059	12,875
Refreshments	1,852	-	217	2,069	1,164
Working expenses	-	-	-	-	1,333
Printing, stationery and telephone	5,168	-	66	5,234	3,877
Equipment / Equipment rental	1,315	275	1,722	3,312	6,685
Church building running expenses	10,065	-	623	10,688	13,407
Legal and professional fees	3,375	-	876	4,251	1,643
Insurance	6,451	-	-	6,451	5,707
Organ \ Music \ Licences	873	-	267	1,141	1,595
Fundraising Costs	163	-	-	163	147
Staff costs	24,520	-	-	24,520	23,740
Flowers	250	-	-	250	586
Choir costs	120	-	1,135	1,255	450
Hardship supplies	-	-	36	36	328
CTR Contribution	-	-	12,000	12,000	-
Computer costs	1,905	-	100	2,005	-
NZC Project	1,062	-	71,819	72,882	-
Liturgical Supplies	1,835	-	-	1,835	1,400
Church repairs and maintenance	7,747	-	3,704	11,451	30,915
	67,028	275	97,103	164,407	110,344
<b>e) Mission giving and donation</b>					
Third party donations	624	-	1,036	1,660	7,491
	624	-	1,036	1,660	7,491

## St Giles, Pontefract

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### Food Share - Receipts and Payments

---

	£
Opening balance	17,489
<b>Income</b>	
Grants	1,125
Food Pantry	626
Bank interest	11
Transfer to PCC bank	1,125
Total Income	<u>2,887</u>
<b>Payments</b>	
Church utility bills	623
Lunch with us donations	480
Computer expenses	687
Food and materials	2,299
Small repairs	71
Total payments	<u>4,161</u>
Closing balance	<u><u>16,215</u></u>

## St Giles, Pontefract

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### Food Share - Receipts and Payments

---

	£
Opening balance	17,489
<b>Income</b>	
Grants	1,125
Food Pantry	626
Bank interest	11
Transfer to PCC bank	1,125
Total Income	<u>2,887</u>
<b>Payments</b>	
Church utility bills	623
Lunch with us donations	480
Computer expenses	687
Food and materials	2,299
Small repairs	71
Total payments	<u>4,161</u>
Closing balance	<u><u>16,215</u></u>

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# Accounts

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# The Parish of St Giles' with St Mary's, Pontefract



**ANNUAL REPORT  
AND  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2024**

The Benefice of Pontefract  
All Saints ✠ St Giles' with St Mary's ✠ St Michael the Archangel ✠ St Stephen's  
Strengthening Faith, Building Community

The Parochial Church Council of The Ecclesiastical Parish of St Giles, Pontefract  
is a charity registered in England and Wales (1135106).

## **Bank**

Virgin Money

## **Independent Examiner**

KJA Kilner Johnson Ltd

## **Objectives**

St Giles' has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, The Reverend Ian Bullock in promoting in the ecclesiastical Parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for St Giles' Church.

## **Structure, governance and management**

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

The PCC held seven meetings during the year, and seven meetings of the Standing Committee.

## **PCC Membership**

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2022) and registered with the Charity Commission.

PCC members are elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church representation Rules 2022 and during the year, in addition there are a number of officers who are Ex-Officio.

During 2024, the following served as members of the PCC

Incumbent	<i>The Reverend Ian Bullock (Ex-officio)* (Chair from March 2024)</i>
Assistant Curate	<i>The Reverend Sam Fletcher** (Finished Curacy August 2024)</i>
Associate Priests	<i>The Reverend Wayne Phillips** (Ex-officio)</i> <i>The Reverend Kate Reynolds** (Ex-officio)</i> <i>The Reverend Rod Walker** (Ex-officio)</i> <i>The Reverend Mark Watkins** (Ex-officio)</i>
Churchwardens	<i>Mr Bruce Dalglish (Ex-Officio)*</i> <i>Mr Peter Lavine (Ex-Officio)*</i> <i>Miss Pam Mercer (Ex-Officio)*</i> <i>Mrs Barbara Sessford (Ex-Officio)* (Chair until March 2024)</i>

Deanery Synod	<i>Mrs Barbara Sessford (Ex-Officio)*</i> Mrs Jill Clapham (Ex-Officio) Vacant (Ex-Officio) Vacant (Ex-Officio)	
Elected Members	Dr Sonia Atkin Mrs Joan Taylor Mr David Belford Vacant Mrs Lynne Davis <i>Mrs Karen Glynn *</i> <i>Mr David Leigh *</i> Mr Frank Ward Mrs Susanna Farnham Mr Ulric Murray Mr Anthony Williams Mr Ian Wood	(Term of Office Expires 2025) (Term of Office Expires 2025) (Died September 2024) (Term of Office Expires 2025) (Term of Office Expires 2026) (Term of Office Expires 2026) (Resigned February 2025) (Term of Office Expires 2026) (Term of Office Expires 2027) (Term of Office Expires 2027) (Term of Office Expires 2027) (Term of Office Expires 2027)

\*Names in *italic* denote members of the Standing Committee

\*\*As Clergy licensed to The Benefice of Pontefract, they have the right to attend all PCC meetings, but in practice this doesn't always happen.

## **Standing Committee**

This the only committee required by law. It has power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the council. It also meets to discuss other matters to be put before the PCC and prepare the agenda.

It consists of the Vicar, churchwardens, PCC Secretary, PCC Treasurer and one member of the PCC

## **Electoral Roll**

After the annual update of the Electoral Roll there were 142 people on the electoral roll at the APCM in April 2024

# Review of the Year

## Matters discussed by the PCC

Some of the significant areas that the PCC has considered are:

- Heritage week in September
- Risk Assessments on all areas of church life
- The church's budget, parish giving and fundraising
- Works undertaken on the fabric of the church including replacing of bulbs in all areas of the church to LEDs
- Staffing
- Parish Share
- Revising of Term of Reference for committees and church policies
- Receiving of committee reports inc. community provision
- Work of the St Giles Foodshare and Pantry club
- Safeguarding dashboard updates, especially related to new role descriptions for leaders and members of teams
- Remembrance Day Concert and Remembrance Civic Service
- Continuation of Messy Church at St Mary's every third Sunday of the month
- Fees updates
- Digital Giving Device
- Continuing work on the installation of solar panels and applying for a faculty, planning permission and grants to help cover the cost of the installation.
- The creation of the New Benefice of Pontefract
- Talks with Rhubarb Radio to install an aerial on the roof of the church in return for a monthly hire fee, free advertising and reduced charges.

## Financial Activities

Due to a change in the way our accounts are reported, it was not possible to show a comparison between 2023 / 2024; however, the accounts demonstrate that we were able to make not only an increased payment towards our parish share commitment, whilst also ensuring that we kept the full amount in our reserves to allow us to continue to operate in the event of a significant issue arising.

This year also saw some investments maturing and as such we were able to open an account with CCLA who are used by churches across the UK for large deposits of money, paying a competitive interest rate, while ensuring there is no risk on our investment.

Later in 2024 we made the decision to cease operation of the floor stand donation device which we had found unreliable, and was also costing us money with a quarterly maintenance fee. This was replaced by the Collectin device which can be seen clearly as you enter the Nave. While the device is still new, we are already beginning to see that it is being noticed and used. Whilst there was an initial upfront cost to purchase it, there are no ongoing maintenance costs attached to it.

St Giles' continues to depend on its members for support, both practical and monetary, for its continued existence and outreach to the community.

The Church can claim an extra 25p for every £1 given if donated by a tax payer who has signed a "Gift Aid" declaration or completes and signs a one-off gift aid envelope, available from the welcome team.

This is paid by the Inland Revenue (at no extra cost to you); if you are a tax payer and would like to help boost the Church income, please have a word about gift aiding your donations.

Thank you to all who support the Parish in all your various ways; your generous giving of time and money is greatly valued.

After many years serving as the church treasurer, David Leigh stepped down from this role on 31<sup>st</sup> December. David has worked tirelessly behind the scenes looking after the accounts, and we give thanks for his years of service.

Moving forward we are fortunate to now have an accountant who will act as our treasurer, Mrs Sam Hutton, who has offered to give her skills and expertise to us freely, we are grateful for her support. Fr Ian has been building a close working relationship with her, and between them they will ensure that we remain fiscally secure for the future.

A copy of the parish accounts are appended to the back of this report for inspection and have been independently examined.

## **Fabric**

The Quinquennial Report by the church architect, David Barker was received in August. His closing statement in his comprehensive, eighty-five-page document encapsulates his thoughts on the state of the fabric of the church. "In summary, the building is in good condition, well maintained with a positive and active approach to maintenance and repairs". There are minor repairs to complete but most of these can and will be completed, in house over the period that is covered by the report (2028).

Taking into account the comments above we have experienced some challenges in the tower. Damp within the spiral staircase enclosure is a worry. The architect has been consulted over this matter and has responded that this problem exists in a lot of churches and has been worsened by the increase in extreme weather conditions. We will work closely with him to try and find a workable remedy to this problem. Whilst we speak about the tower, it is worth noting that the condition of the ringing chamber warranted redecoration. The ringing team, led by the Tower Captain, has undertaken this task, and have carried out the complete redecorating and the replacement of some worn fittings to a very high standard. Our thanks go to them.

The proposed installation of a radio transmitter on the top level of the tower is still an ongoing project that needs completing. I am confident that within the near future all the problems will be overcome, and the installation will be financially beneficial to the church.

Over the summer period extensive work has been carried out in the baptistry, cafe and kitchen areas to redecorate and fit new LED lights, over sixty percent of all lights in the

church are now LED's and it is hoped that, that total will lead us to be completely LED in the near future.

In July we were granted a free energy assessment, under the VCSE (voluntary, charitable and social enterprise) grant scheme. Following this assessment, we were able to apply for a grant to cover the cost of solar panels on the south aisle roof, new LED lights in the main body of the church and a sustainable, improved method of loft insulation. This work will be completed in the coming year.

All the mandatory tests that are required, to allow the church to operate safely and legally have been carried out at various stages in the year; The five yearly, fixed electrical certificate was renewed, the portable appliances test (PAT) along with tests on the fire extinguishers, gas boilers, the hydraulic lift and the intruder/fire alarm.

As always, I have been supported in the various endeavours by a committed group of volunteer helpers, namely; David Malkin, Ian Knox, Charles Atkin and David Roydhouse. Without their help, most of the improvements and maintenance in church would not happen. Many thanks.

Peter Lavine  
Churchwarden

## **Study**

In Lent 2024 St Giles the Lenten study was based on the Tom Wright book – Lent for Everyone – Mark.

## **Worship**

Regular Worship at St Giles' is as follows:

10.15 a.m. Holy Communion  
4.00 p.m. Choral Evensong (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Month)  
9.30 a.m. Wednesday – Midweek Holy Communion  
10.30 a.m. Friday – Midweek Holy Communion

In addition to our regular worship there have been other services conducted through the year during Holy week and Christmas, as well as the Annual Civic Remembrance service, with many gathering together to remember those who paid the ultimate price for peace. This year also saw the return of our Christingle service on Christmas Eve, which was very well attended, and enjoyed by all.

## **Clergy**

In March 2024 St Giles' welcomed The Reverend Ian Bullock as the Vicar of Pontefract, and on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2024 the Pastoral Scheme to create the New Benefice of Pontefract came into operation, the parishes of All Saints, Ss Giles' with St Mary's, Michael the Archangel and Stephen all operate under his authority as Incumbent and The Vicar of Pontefract.

This scheme also altered the licences of the clergy team with the four Associate Priests now being authorised to work across the new Benefice, their invaluable work allows us to enjoy worship across the Benefice and we give thanks for their service,

As the long-term view is to increase the level of co-operation through the Benefice, there has been the beginning of much more interaction with all of the clergy team within the parishes. Fr Ian has the responsibility of ensuring that worship happens within all our churches, and as such, the allocation of clergy resources reflects this new way of working.

We are also grateful for the support of other members of the clergy The Reverend Michael Taylor is a retired member of clergy, who is Beneficed with us, and we are also fortunate to be able to call upon The Reverends Sue Hulme and Mike Marsh to supplement the team.

In August at a Benefice service, we said goodbye to Fr Sam Fletcher as he completed his curacy and moved to Exeter to work on a Doctorate.

In addition to his duties inside the Benefice, Fr Ian also accepted the invitation to become the Assistant Area Dean of Pontefract, working with the diocesan Stewardship team, a mentor to other members of clergy, and a Member of the Diocesan Synod.

## **Lay Ministers**

The Benefice of Pontefract is blessed with a number of Local Lay Ministers (LLM's), with Mrs Anita Hayes and Mrs Jackie Guest, based at All Saints, Mrs Jill Clapham and Mr David Brooks (PTO) at St Giles and Ms Natalie Vause (currently in her final training year) at St Michael the Archangel.

In addition to this we have a Lay Worship leader, Mrs Barbara Pollard and a Lay Pastoral Minister Mr Alf Taylor at St Stephen's

In the same way that the clergy licences changed with the new Benefice, the LLM's did as well, primarily this affects the Local Lay Ministers with them having the opportunity to grow and develop their ministry more widely. However, as we continue to develop other opportunities will be available for all Lay Ministers to be involved on a Benefice scale.

We are grateful for all the work that they do, and how they enhance our churches.

## **Deanery Synod**

Owing to the Area Dean, The Rev'd Margaret Gallagher moving to a new post in North Yorkshire last year, the Deanery Synod only met on one occasion. The meeting took place on Saturday 13 April at St Mary's Church, South Elmsall; Fr Ian Bullock was welcomed back to the Deanery by the Area Dean and elections were held for secretary and chair, the latter which remained vacant.

A new Area Dean was appointed in December, The Rev'd Canon Paul Cartwright SSC, Vicar of the Priory Benefice, he will chair his first Deanery Synod in early 2025.

Jill Clapham

## **Pastoral Care**

Pastoral care is a central part of our parish's ministry.

We have a core pastoral care team comprising Fr Ian, Fr Sam, Jill Clapham, and Pam Mercer. We currently provide Home Communion on a monthly basis to seven regular home communicants, as well as those who receive home communion on a temporary or one-off basis. This is in addition to the pastoral visiting by our clergy, which we arrange as the need arises, including hospital and hospice visits where appropriate. We support people facing a wide variety of difficulties, including grief, isolation and ill health.

To help us in this work, we rely also upon the strong network of friendships that exist within church. We are thankful to be part of a church community in which people show so much love and care for one another, and are grateful for those occasions when church members have alerted us to pastoral needs on behalf of their friends. While our pastoral ministry team takes on particular responsibilities, the task of providing support and caring for one another is shared by the whole church.

As the Parish Church, our pastoral care responsibilities extend far beyond those who attend church, and through our ministry where we are embedded, we offer support and assistance to any who ask for our help.

In summary, through our pastoral ministry, we continue to provide important spiritual and emotional support to our congregations and the wider community.

## Outreach and Activities

### St Giles' Management Committee

Established over 12 years ago the St Giles Centre Management Committee is responsible for the development and day to day management and promotion of the community facility and has held regular meetings throughout 2024.

The Centre's vision continues to maintain and extend the church's mission within the community to bring benefits to local people and new initiatives to the life of the church and community whilst encouraging equality, diversity and cohesion within a safe and welcoming environment.

There was an increase in the use of the Centre by community groups and local organisations during 2024 compared with 2023 and substantially higher compared with the previous three years which were severely affected by the COVID restrictions. Income from room rentals amounted to £16050.00 compared to £14318 in 2023 and £4318 in 2022. For the last two years the Centre has benefitted from two National Lottery Community Awards which cover the annual cost of room hire by Citizens Advice and the associated caretaking costs. The second grant will also cover these costs until March 2026.

Centre activities during the year -

- The weekly Chair Exercise classes continue to be popular.
- Citizens Advice service every Wednesday. Throughout the year the outreach service saw 167 clients and advised on 237 issues recording direct financial benefits for residents of £145,209.00.
- The Conexus Healthcare Peer Group meetings and the Wellbeing Café are now in their 3<sup>rd</sup> year and continue to meet monthly. Additional healthcare group and one-to-one sessions have been held throughout the year including pre-diabetes, pop-up COVID vaccination clinics, Weight Management, Healthy Heart and staff meetings.
- Wakefield Recovery and Wellbeing College courses -
  - Living with and Managing Anxiety
  - Pebble Painting Craft
  - Living with and Managing Depression
  - Journaling
  - Creative Crafting
  - 2 other courses cancelled or withdrawn due to lack of student numbers or tutor illness.
- Pontefract Foodbank food collection and advisory service was suspended from the end of July to the middle of November due to a safeguarding incident which required a review of its risk assessment and procedural operations. When the service resumed the Wednesday money advice service was cancelled and additional volunteers and procedures for the food collection service on Thursdays were introduced together with additional advisor time on that day.
- The Youth Association Future Selph Programme, commissioned by Conexus Healthcare and funded by the NHS ran a very well attended 12-week course to support and promote wellbeing of young adults to equip them to overcome life's challenges.

- KLH Events Wheelfest Gift & Craft Fair held in June proved very successful and attracted large numbers of the local community into church. Discussions were subsequently held regarding future such events at St Giles.
- Changing Lives, a charity delivering the Government funded initiative "Pathways to Progress" project that provides essential support to workless households in the West Yorkshire Combined Authority area. two-hour sessions every week from October to March 2025.
- Numerous church activities throughout the year including Tiddlywinks, St Giles 3.16, MU Fashion show, PCC and SC meetings, Missions Committee Beetle Drive, Lent course, Advent course, Choir Practice, Wednesday and Saturday coffee mornings, Centre Management Committee meetings,
- Choral Concerts –
  - Pontefract Choral Society held concerts in March, June and December.
  - Featherstone Male Voice Choir in July in aid of the Rob Burrow MND Centre appeal.
  - Castleford Singers in July

At the November meeting of the committee, it was agreed to increase room hire rates by 3% from 1 January 2025 due to the impact of increasing levels of inflation and how this and other factors has affected the church energy costs.

The Centre Committee continues to oversee the Holiday Food Share and Food Pantry projects which are based at No.6 The Circle in Chequerfield and has reviewed the membership of the sub-committee comprising of three members to provide effective governance, management of the project and future developments.

The weekly Lunch with Us meals service, once again provided a full service throughout the year in the café area. The project continues to meet an increasing demand with a weekly average of:

98 meals to 49 people served by 10 volunteers.

(2023 figures: 90 meals to 45 people served by 9 volunteers)

Looking ahead the committee is planning to increase the use of the church area for large events such as craft fairs and other fundraising events and has purchased 27 additional tables which can be hired out. KLH Events will be organising three Craft & Gift Fairs per year in the next two years and St Giles will be looking to increase its own indoor events in the future to increase our outreach to our community.

The committee wishes to express the sad loss of its founder member, David Belford, who passed away in September and to give thanks to David Leigh who stood down as treasurer at the end of the year. Thanks also to Vivienne (Secretary) and Ian Wood for all their help and support throughout the year.

Committee Membership: Fr. Ian, Vivienne Smales (Secretary), David Leigh (Treasurer), Bill Bradley, Ulric Murray, Fr Rod, Barbara Sessford and Joan Taylor.

Bill Bradley

## **Social Events**

During 2024, we began to re-focus our efforts on utilising our church to provide social events organised by St Giles.

This year we once again hosted Yorkshire Imperial Band for a Remembrance concert, and in November we held a Christmas Fayre.

Both were well supported by our community, and we have created a new Social planning team that will meet in early 2025 to look at what types of events we can hold next year, and the ways that we can engage with our community in new ways.

If you would like to get involved with the Social aspects of the church, please speak to Fr Ian.

## **Schools**

To the end of the 2023 / 2024 academic year Fr Sam spent time looking after St Giles' school as well as working with other schools in the Parish.

During Fr Ian's convalescence he started to forge his relationship with St Giles', taking his place on the Governing Board, getting to know Mr Grace the Head, and planning for the future. As such since the beginning of the new school term, Fr Ian now leads the assembly each fortnight, and it has been agreed that School will come into Church for Four services each year, to mark significant times in the church and school year.

Fr Ian will also be working with the school and going in to take lessons as appropriate, and continue to strengthen the relationship between us.

During the Christmas lead up, Fr Ian also hosted some other schools in church for their Christmas services, and I looking forward to building close relationships with them all during 2025.

## **Baptism Ministry**

During this year we have continued to invite baptism families into church for the meeting of preparation, the baptism service itself following at a later date. The preparation meetings are now held on Saturday mornings and have been led by a member of the clergy and include the family's Baptism Welcomer. In recognition of their role in encouraging the child's knowledge and growth in the Christian faith, godparents are also warmly invited and occasionally have attended. It has been clear that both parents and godparents can benefit by expanding their understanding, not just of baptism, but of the significance of the godparents in the child's upbringing.

Fr Ian has updated the order of service for baptism, making the language more easily accessible for everyone and introducing two new hymns (both with well-known tunes so that all can join in!). The importance of the promises and declarations made by parents and godparents is emphasised.

The baptism service continues to take place at 12.15 p.m. after the Sunday morning Eucharist. This year there have been 16 baptisms. Of these, eight were children under the age of one year; seven were between the ages of one and four years and one child was five years old.

The team of Baptism Welcomers continues to numbers eight, regularly assisted by Daisy. And we thank Vivienne once again for her invaluable admin support and efficiency. Anyone interested in joining our team should speak to myself, a member of the welcoming team, or to Father Ian.

Mary Murray

## **Bell Ringing**

The ringing at St. Giles continues to gather momentum, we now have 19 people who have rung regularly for the past year. The increased numbers mean that we can now offer practice on two nights a week, Monday and Thursday and are able to ring all 10 bells regularly for Sunday morning service. We have also rung a quarter peal before evensong on 1st December 2024.

We are very pleased to have welcomed 10 visiting bands from all over the country to the tower in 2024. They have rung short touches, quarter peals and full peals and have included one method that was rung for the very first time anywhere. Our own band rang for peace on the 80th anniversary of D-Day [6th June 2024].

A programme of refurbishment in the ringing chamber was started in the summer of 2024. This included stripping the old paint from the walls. The walls and gloss work have all been repainted and the carpet replaced with all the costs being raised by the bellringers. We ordered new ropes in the spring of 2024 and took delivery in November of this year; they have been part funded by the reserves in the tower fund. This work should stand the tower in good order for many years to come.

The chimes of the clock are still not working but plans are in place to have experts examine them in the weeks to come and advise the church on the best way forward.

If you want to know more about bellringing or would like to learn to ring, please contact me.

Adrian Garner  
Tower Captain

## **Flower Team**

The Flower Fairies remain a small but enthusiastic band, keen to enhance our Church with God's gift of flowers every Saturday morning during the year apart from Lent and Advent. We hope you enjoy our efforts.

Thank you to Bill Bradley for supplying us with greenery each week and thank you to all who have donated towards the Flowers during the year.

The Flower Team

## **Junior Church – St Giles’ 3:16**

Our children and young people continue to meet upstairs every Sunday morning to explore and learn more about our faith.

We were asked to focus on one of our objectives for the year which was and is, the environment. We are trying to lower our carbon footprint all around church. Members of the committee had designed and made a Bug Hotel and we were asked to incorporate this into our teaching and learning.

We chose to do this through the story of creation using some poetic license. Using both teamwork and crafting we told the story day by day. This was helped by Bruce whose photographs from the observatory inspired Annabel to incorporate the stars and planets into day four. The main focus was on the final three days when God created the birds, fish and smaller creatures, the insects and bugs. All was well until the larger animals and humans were created and who were unaware of the tiniest insects and unknowingly destroyed their homes and even injured some of them. Consequently, on day seven when God was hoping to rest, he was bombarded with prayers from his tiniest members of creation asking for help. As humans had already been given responsibility for looking after the earth, they were tasked with finding a solution. The bug hotel! Great fun was had, and amazing art and craft work showed the magnificence of creation. The bug hotel can be found in the garden at the front of church near the door into the vestry.

We continue to follow the main festivals of the church while at the same time incorporating new ideas. Our next project is to back to basics and focus on the life and teachings of Jesus.

Lynne and Stephanie

## **Tiddlywinks**

Last year was a year of change for Tiddlywinks as Sheila Roydhouse and Sandra Cutting retired from our little group, but we were really pleased when Bridget Sowerby agreed to join us. She was a Tiddlywinkers grandma when Bridget and Barry brought Daisy along.

This is a special year for Tiddlywinks as it's our 20th birthday and during that time we've been very fortunate to have lots of children come to our group. We still sing the songs and play our musical instruments and generally make lots of noise.

Last year, in the summer when the weather was fine, we managed a trip to the Castle and had a picnic. The children really loved it racing round and letting off some steam.

Barbara Lavine  
Elaine Troughton  
Jill Townsend  
Bridget Sowerby

## **Lunch With Us**

Lunch with Us will enter its 10<sup>th</sup> year in September and what a journey it has been. We started slowly and built-up numbers of customers and meals served. We had to close

during COVID but opened as soon as we could with a takeaway service. Numbers are building up again now and we have regular and occasional customers.

We are always grateful to receive donations towards our work with vulnerable people.

Barbara Sessford  
Lunch with Us Co-Ordinator

## **Messy Church**

Messy Church has continued to join together in fellowship and worship on the third Sunday of each month. We have seen some new faces join our congregation and we are hoping that we continue to see growth throughout 2025 when we will be holding our services on the third Saturday of each month.

Following the departure of Fr Sam at the end of his curacy Messy Church has been led by a small team of volunteers co-ordinated by our LLM Jill Clapham with help from Anita Hayes, another of our LLM team from across our Benefice.

Highlights of our messy year have included *Wondering about Holy Week, Jonah and the Big Fish, Salt and Light*, and the *Exodus* story. We have begun to use Godly Play in some of our sessions which has been popular; the highlight of our craft activities was a huge blue whale which was co-ordinated by Christine Benham who has led our crafts with imaginative flair.

Thank you to everyone who continues to contribute to this important mission, especially our catering team who continue to serve our refreshments.

We would love to welcome you to our team or our congregation so if you have ever wondered what Messy Church is all about do come and see.

Jill Clapham

## **The Missions Committee Report**

Once again, our main fundraising activity has been selling coffee in church on the second Saturday of each month.

Other fundraising events were a beetle drive held in the February 2024 half-term and a chocolate tombola held in March 2024.

Through 2024 we raised £2589.19, of that £2254 was donated to the charities below, and the Missions fund currently stands at £ 2459.33

The five charities we continue to support are:

### **The Leprosy Mission - £254 (Lent Project)**

TLM offers rehabilitation, education, vocational training, small business loans, housing and fresh water and sanitation to tens of thousands of leprosy sufferers each year. TLM was the church's Lent Project for 2024.

### **Church Missionary Society - £500**

Andrea and Andrew Young have now retired, and we are currently in communication with CMS to arrange who we will be supporting in 2025.

### **Mara - £500**

Majengo Mapya is our link parish near Musoma on Lake Victoria and we sent a contribution to assist with the continuing work being done there.

### **The Church Army - £500**

The Missions Committee made a donation towards the work done by Church Army in some of the deprived areas in the UK.

### **The Missions to Seafarers - £500**

This charity works worldwide to support seafarers, providing specialist help in a crisis. We made a contribution towards this work.

The Missions Committee thanks our congregation for their continuing support. It is through their generosity that we can continue to donate monies to the charities listed.

Edie Barber  
Treasurer and Secretary

### **Mothers' Union**

We have 22 members and are a very active branch. During 2024 we had some very interesting speakers.

In January we held our Wave of Prayer service followed by our New Year social. In February we welcomed Anita from All Saints who gave a lovely talk explaining how she came into the ministry. Fr Mark led our Stations of the Cross service in March, which was a very beautiful and moving service.

David Jones gave an interesting talk in April about his year being the Mayor of Wakefield and in May Linda Atkins gave an insight into her fundraising for Tiny Tickers. In June we had our annual outing and had a day out at Bakewell and Buxton.

We held an afternoon tea in July, which was followed by a quiz which everyone enjoyed. Over the busy summer month of August, we take a break, but then in September we welcomed Joy from the Foster Care unit who explained how the unit works when the children become eighteen.

In October we walked around Church with a difference where members talked about different parts of the Church and prayers were said. November saw our AGM take place followed by a pie and pea lunch and in December we held our Advent service followed by the Christmas lunch. Quite a year.

Funds were raised through hosting a fashion show and running a bottle stall. In January 2024 we sent £150 to Away From It All Holidays for upkeep of the caravans, £60 to Make a Mother's Day and £86 to Summer of Hope.

Marjorie Laidlaw  
MU Secretary

## **Open Church**

Open Church volunteers continue to welcome visitors into our beautiful church. Some come to pray, some in search of something missing in their lives and some to look at the architecture and stained-glass windows. Whatever the reason for their visit our volunteers are there to help.

If you feel like you could help as a volunteer, please ask a Church Warden who will be pleased to explain more.

Barbara Sessford

## **Serving Team Report**

Members of our congregation and choir have continued to volunteer their time during both our regular worship and special services throughout the past year. We are blessed at St Giles with so many people willing to take their turn reading the lessons, leading intercessions, serving at the altar, and serving as eucharistic ministers.

Each of these ministries are important components of our church life and we would like to thank everyone for their continued dedication. There is always room for new volunteers so if you feel called to any of these roles, please speak to one of our Licensed Lay Ministers, David Brooks or Jill Clapham who will provide you with the necessary support and training.

Jill Clapham

## **St Giles' Food Share and Pantry Club**

Two projects are run from the premises at No 6 The Circle: the weekly Pantry Club and Holiday Food Share in/during school holidays. During 2024, the Pantry Club has supported an average of 21 families or 89 people a week. An average of 41 families have been nominated for Holiday Food Share on each of 9 occasions, supporting a total of 1638 people over the year. In total the two projects have provided the ingredients for at least 50,000 person-meals during 2024.

Weekly deliveries through the Pantry Club continue to help families avoid financial crises and need for the Foodbank's emergency support. Cooperation with the Foodbank has enabled signposting to the Foodbank's financial inclusion support, helping families to maximise benefit claims and to get help with financial worries. One family which joined the Pantry after the October half-term sent a Christmas card saying they found the help "a Godsend".

Meeting the demands of ongoing weekly provision with a large increase every six weeks or so involves careful stock management. Some of our intake comes from regular donations at St Giles' and All Saints' Churches and we benefit from donations brought to No 6 and those made through our local Morrisons and Asda; Pontefract Trussell Foodbank also passes some food on to us and we benefit from supplies of Warburton's bread through Wakefield Street Kitchen and Pontefract Community Kitchen. For the financial year 2024-5, weekly deliveries from FareShare have been financed by WMDC,

but this is expected to cease from April 2025. We are grateful to have again received Harvest donations from local schools, and Smiles for Miles and All Stars provided seasonal goodies for the children at Easter and Christmas.

However, the heavy uptake of the two projects has necessitated the purchase of much of the food we distribute. The total spending on food during 2024 amounted to nearly £12,000, while subscriptions from Pantry members were just over £2100. We continue to rely on cash donations from Church members and those who call in at the shop (c. £2300), and monthly donations from a local firm. Supporters have run stalls to raise funds and staff at Tesco held a collection to support us. We also apply for grants, some being government money channelled through WMDC, and others given by the charitable arms of WDH, Asda and Morrisons. Grants from WDH have enabled us regularly to provide eggs and fresh fruit for several months at a time.

Our tenancy at No 6 is only possible through a generous charity lease from WDH, and this was extended for a further 3 years from November. They have also been supportive when we were faced with a stuck shutter, a leaking water heater and fly tipping at the back of the premises.

Services and events of interest are promoted in our shop window and we welcome local people calling in at the shop. We continue to develop relationships with local businesses on The Circle. As part of the Benefice's outreach in the community, we again promoted No 6 at the annual Community Showcase as well as the St Giles' Christmas Fair.

Thank you to everyone who has made our work at No 6 possible. We must again express heartfelt thanks for the regular support given by a team of about 12 volunteers who help with packing and deliveries for the Pantry Club and Holiday Food schemes. We have signed up additional volunteers from within the wider community.

Paul & Ann Harris

## **St Mary's**

St Mary's continues to have a very small, but faithful and hard-working congregation. Everybody has a role to play whether it be opening and setting up, organising music for hymns, playing the recorder for mood or singing to, meet and greet deacon during the Eucharist, tea and coffee, clearing up or finally seeing Fr Michael home!

A successful strawberry tea was held with all hands-on deck. Efforts are made to encourage and swell the congregation and Messy Church continues to thrive. The year ended with a well-attended carol service.

Fr Michael

## **Good Causes**

During 2024, St Giles' was able to support the following organisation:

- Through the generosity of members of the church, we were able to provide each child who was leaving St Giles' School with a Bible
- The Children's Society through our Christingle Service, and also St Mary's Christmas service.

## Social Media

Web address: <http://www.cofe-pontefract.co.uk>

2024 saw a lot of changes to the way the social media is run following Fr Ian's arrival.

We now have a Facebook page for all five churches in the Benefice which allows for all the churches to share news and events for what is happening in their Church and for news and events at all five churches to be shared between Facebook pages so that people don't have to navigate from one page to another.

Thank you to Natalie Vause at St Michael's and Barbara Pollard at St Stephen's for their input in promoting events on the St Michael's and St Stephen's Facebook pages, we are looking for others to become part of this team, which as we move forward will be crucial. If you are interested in getting involved, in the first instance please talk to Fr Ian.

Due to a donation, a licence for Hootsuite was purchased which means that posts can be scheduled in advance and shared on the Facebook pages quickly and easily rather than having to post content one page at a time.

The other big change in 2024 was the launch of the Benefice website which Fr Ian put hours of work into. It is still very much a work in progress but it will be a great asset to the Benefice once it is fully up and running. All the old websites have now been shut down, but for the time being we have retained ownership of the addresses, and a review of whether to keep these will happen later.

We are already seeing a good amount of traffic on the site, and are looking forward to seeing how this develops as the site grows.

The social media will continue to be developed and improved as we move into 2025. We will make more effective use of X (formally known as Twitter) and look into developing an Instagram account to allow for content to be shared with a younger audience.

During 2024 we have developed a new daily cycle of Prayer, #PrayerforEveryone, which was launched in January. A prayer goes out each morning at 8.00 a.m. for a different group or industry in society across the Facebook pages and X account.

As always, if you have a news story or event taking place in one of our Churches and you would like it to be promoted on social media, please email [jonathan.harris@cofe-pontefract.co.uk](mailto:jonathan.harris@cofe-pontefract.co.uk) and we can put it on for you.

Jonathan Harris  
Benefice Digital Lead

## Safeguarding

The Church complies with Diocesan Safeguarding Policies and Practices, with regular updating of the Diocesan Safeguarding Dashboard and Safeguarding Hub. This guides the PCC in fulfilling its statutory obligations.

The PCC continues to commit to carrying out the Church of England Policy for Safeguarding; it also reaffirms that everyone is responsible for safeguarding children and vulnerable adults irrespective of their role within the church community, with any concerns being reported to the Safeguarding Officer, Clergy or a member of the PCC.

All members of St Giles' who are, due to the nature of their post (Voluntary or otherwise) are currently in receipt of an enhanced DBS check and this information is confidentially stored with the parish administrator. Post holders and volunteers have all received the necessary clearance to fulfil their roles. All DBS checks are renewed every three years.

### **Actions completed:**

- All necessary training has been completed together with some non-compulsory courses, which I feel help all matters of Safeguarding within our Community.
- Updates completed to the Parish Safeguarding Dashboard stand at 100%. The Safeguarding Dashboard helps to make sure everything is completed on time and if there are any matters outstanding then notification is received and can be completed asap.
- Updates completed to the Parish Safeguarding Hub. This facility helps keep Safeguarding on track. It also provides job descriptions, policies etc which are helpful in Safeguarding procedures.

I Worship at All Saints' so to keep in touch I call into St Giles on a regular basis. I am in constant contact with Father Ian and would like to thank him for his support of Safeguarding Matters. My thanks also to Vivienne, Church Wardens and anyone I've pestered for answers to my questions.

***Safeguarding is not one person's responsibility, it is the responsibility of all. If at anytime you have any Safeguarding Concerns please report it as soon as possible.***

Christine Brown  
Safeguarding Officer

### **Conclusion**

This Report and the Attached Accounts were approved by the PCC on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



The Reverend Ian Bullock (PCC Chair)  
Vicar of Pontefract

## Independent Examiners Report to the PCC of St Giles

---

I report to the Parochial Church Council (PCC) on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024.

### Responsibilities and basis of report

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and S1.44 (2) of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the church's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act and the Church Guidance 2006 Edition.

### Independent examiner's statement

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

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

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

*KJA Kilner Johnson Ltd.*

.....  
**KJA Kilner Johnson Ltd**  
**Network House**  
**Stubs Beck Lane**  
**Cleckheaton**  
**BD19 4TT**

## St Giles, Pontefract

### Receipts and Payments Accounts for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

	Note	Total Unrestricted Funds £	Total Designated Funds £	Total Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £
<b>Receipts</b>					
<b>Voluntary receipts</b>					
Collections at services		37,118	-	7,983	45,101
All other giving/voluntary receipts	4a	10,633	100	55,622	66,355
		<u>47,751</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>63,606</u>	<u>111,456</u>
<b>Activities for generating funds</b>					
Investment income	4b	27,163	-	42	27,205
Church activities	4c	28,611	-	12,468	41,079
<b>Total receipts</b>		<u>103,525</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>76,116</u>	<u>179,740</u>
<b>Payments</b>					
<b>Church activities</b>					
Parish contribution		31,500	-	5,100	36,600
Ministry expenses		-	-	922	922
Church running expenses	4d	66,043	637	43,664	110,344
Missions giving and donations	4e	-	-	7,491	7,491
		<u>97,543</u>	<u>637</u>	<u>57,177</u>	<u>153,699</u>
<b>Costs of generating funds</b>					
<b>Total payments</b>		<u>112,006</u>	<u>637</u>	<u>57,177</u>	<u>153,699</u>
<b>Excess of receipts over payments</b>		8,683	- 537	18,939	24,382
Transfer between funds		- 50,020	60,000	- 9,980	- 0
		<u>- 44,038</u>	<u>59,463</u>	<u>8,958</u>	<u>24,382</u>
Cash at bank and in hand at 1 January		56,308	9,805	36,592	102,706
Cash at bank and in hand at 31 December		<u>12,270</u>	<u>69,268</u>	<u>45,550</u>	<u>127,088</u>

## St Giles, Pontefract

### Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 December 2024

	<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	<b>Designated funds</b>	<b>Restricted funds</b>	<b>TOTAL 2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Cash funds</b>				
Virign current account -PCC	3,510	4,268	14,876	22,654
Investment account	8,759	65,000	-	73,759
Virgin account - Food Share		-	17,489	17,489
Virgin account - Centre account		-	13,186	13,186
Cash in hand				
	<u>12,269</u>	<u>69,268</u>	<u>45,551</u>	<u>127,088</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>				
Accountancy	1,800	-	-	1,800
	<u>1,800</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,800</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements

1. Basis of preparation

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis.

2. Movement in restricted funds

The movements in restricted funds during the year were:

	Balance B/fwd £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfer £	Balance C/fwd £
<b>Restricted</b>					
Belfry	913	85 -	1,015	20	3
Hardship	1,793	-	328	-	1,465
Choir	339	516 -	450	-	405
Missions	2,124	2,589 -	2,254	-	2,459
St Giles Centre Account	5,480	22,879 -	6,373 -	10,000	11,986
Lunch with Us	1,459	12 -	750	480	1,201
St Marys	7,724	5,483 -	5,100	-	8,107
MU Weds Coffee Fund	799	350 -	50	-	1,099
Messy Church	1,090	58 -	307	-	842
ECO VCSE	-	21,833 -	21,633	-	200
Other collections	341	3,893 -	4,019	-	215
Donations/ sponsorships	-	1,265 -	1,185	-	80
Food Share	14,529	17,152 -	13,713 -	480	17,489
	36,592	76,115 -	57,177 -	9,960	45,551

Belfry – Monies that have been given to the church for the maintenance and upkeep of the Church Bells and Belfry

Hardship – monies that the church have been given which are there for the purpose of helping people who are struggling and need a little assistance. Usually a request will be received for assistance in providing small items that they need, this is the fund we use to support them.

Choir – Monies that are received to support the Choir, this fund may be used for items such as Music licences, Sheet Music, robes or anything that is directly required in the operation of the choir.

Missions – Money raised by the Missions Committee which is used to support external mission agencies

St Giles Centre Account – the Account which deals with the day-to-day operations of the community aspect of the church

Lunch with Us - Are funds donated to offer warm meals and social activities.

St Mary's – After St Mary's bank account was closed this is the money raised by St Mary's church to allow for worship to continue

MU Weds Coffee Fund – Money Raised by The Mothers Union to promote their work, and support outreach

Messy Church – Monies that were awarded to the church to allow for Messy Church to be run

ECO VCSE – Monies awarded to St Giles for the specific NCZ Project

Other Charitable Donations – Monies that the church have taken on behalf of another charity and are paying out to them

Donations / Sponsorship – Monies that have been given for a particular purpose and are used for that purpose only

Food Share - These are monies which are donated and received to fund the operations of the No 6 Food Share project

3. Movement in designated funds

The movements in restricted funds during the year were:

	Balance B/fwd £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfer £	Balance C/fwd £
<b>Designated</b>					
Flower	539	100 -	155	-	484
Dedicated Funds	4,266	- -	482	5,000	8,784
Reserves Policy	-	-	-	60,000	60,000
	4,805	100 -	637	65,000	69,268

Flower – Monies that have historically been collected to dress the church with flowers

Dedicated Funds – Monies donated to church which are there to assist the operation of the church – when these funds are used, the Incumbent discusses the requirements with the people who have given these funds

Reserves Policy - Monies allocated to cover running costs of the church.

## St Giles, Pontefract

### Further Analysis of Receipts and Payments

	Total Unrestricted Funds £	Total Designated Funds £	Total Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £
<b>Receipts</b>				
<b>a) All other giving/voluntary receipts</b>				
Gift Aid Rebate	9,645	-	-	9,645
Legacies	100	-	-	100
Childrens society	-	-	121	121
Appeals	-	-	210	210
Gifts	-	-	632	632
Bible donations	-	-	553	553
Savings	-	-	250	250
Grant	-	-	35,042	35,042
Food Pantry Subs	-	-	4,306	4,306
Donations	888	100	14,508	15,496
	<b>10,633</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>55,622</b>	<b>66,355</b>
<b>b) Investment income</b>				
Proceeds from investment disposal	26,504	-	-	26,504
Bank interest	659	-	42	700
	<b>27,163</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>27,205</b>
<b>c) Church activities</b>				
Candles	1,625	-	-	1,625
Parochial Fees	5,679	-	-	5,679
Room Rental	50	-	101	151
Printing	1,610	-	-	1,610
Coffee	9,454	-	2,020	11,474
Room Hire	-	-	9,670	9,670
Organ recitals	-	-	416	416
Parish magazine income	725	-	-	725
Fundraising activities - raffles/tombolas etc	9,468	-	261	9,729
	<b>28,611</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>12,468</b>	<b>41,080</b>
<b>Payments</b>				
<b>d) Church running expenses</b>				
Cleaning fees	963	-	-	963
Outreach, Evangelism & Discipleship	2,815	-	-	2,815
Training costs	714	-	-	714
Food and materials	-	-	12,875	12,875
Refreshments	1,141	-	23	1,164
Working expenses	1,026	-	307	1,333
Printing, stationery and telephone	3,827	-	50	3,877
Equipment / Equipment rental	1,788	482	4,415	6,685
Church building running expenses	12,510	-	897	13,407
Legal and professional fees	1,643	-	-	1,643
Insurance	5,559	-	148	5,707
Organ \ Music \ Licences	1,043	-	552	1,595
Fundraising Costs	147	-	-	147
Staff costs	23,740	-	-	23,740
Flowers	-	155	431	586
Choir costs	-	-	450	450
Hardship supplies	-	-	328	328
Liturgical Supplies	1,400	-	-	1,400
Church repairs and maintenance	7,727	-	23,188	30,915
	<b>66,043</b>	<b>637</b>	<b>43,664</b>	<b>110,344</b>
<b>e) Mission giving and donation</b>				
Third party donations	-	-	7,491	7,491
	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7,491</b>	<b>7,491</b>

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# Accounts

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THE BENEFICE OF PONTEFRACT  
PARISH OF ST GILES with ST MARY'S  
Registered Charity No. 1135106



# ANNUAL REPORTS AND ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023





This year has been one of seismic change in the life of our parish.

In August, we saw Canon June's departure to take up a role as Chaplain to the Bishop of Rochester. The announcement of her departure, and her final service, were times of great emotion. Yet, throughout it all, we were assured of the continuing faithfulness and guidance of God. In her final letter in the Parish Magazine, Canon June encouraged us, amid all life's changes, 'to see our lives as held within the bigger story of God's creating, sustaining and redeeming of his world.'

Through the interregnum, we saw many signs of that 'bigger story' of God's life-giving love, unfolding in our parish. Building on the sturdy foundation set down by Canon June, we have continued to thrive. I'm hugely grateful to all who played their part in making the vacancy not just a time of endurance, but a time of flourishing. I continue to be astounded by the daily dedication of so many faithful disciples in our churches, without whom we simply could not function. I'm thankful in particular for the hard work put into the appointment process, for all who ensured the smooth running of a busy Christmas season, and most recently for those who helped Fr Ian's Collation service go so well.

Remembering 2023 as a whole, some highlights jump out. We played our part in the country's celebration of the King's Coronation in May, with our special Coronation Service and our bell ringers' participation in the 'Ring for the King'. In July, Bishop Mark Sowerby visited St Giles' for a joyful Confirmation Service. September saw our annual Patronal Festival, with Archdeacon Peter Townley joining us as part of his 'farewell tour', followed by a wonderful 'Scones of Praise' event in the afternoon. In November, there was a successful concert from the Yorkshire Imperial Band, marking Remembrance Day. These are just a handful of the myriad occasions and celebrations in our parish over the past twelve months.

Just as we're in a time of change for our parish, so also it's a time of change for our Diocese. We look forward to welcoming the Revd Canon Cat Thatcher as our new Archdeacon in May. Moreover, following the recent news of his upcoming retirement in the summer, we give thanks for the faithful ministry of Bishop Tony, and pray that God will guide the process of appointing his successor.

We now look to the future with hopeful expectation for all that God will do. It's been wonderful to welcome (back) Fr Ian to Pontefract - and to kick things off "with a bang" with our moving and beautiful Holy Week and Easter services. A new chapter now begins, as we receive all the gifts that Fr Ian has to offer. Continue to pray for him, that the God who called him here would continue to bless his ministry. His arrival represents an opportunity for us to renew our sense of God's call for our Parish, to widen our horizons, to be courageous and visionary as we seek to share God's love with the people of Pontefract. This expanded vision will go together with the expansion of our Benefice, under the proposed Pastoral scheme to unite with St Stephen's and St Michael's. We pray that we might see our mission enriched by the distinctive gifts and treasures of all five churches.

This may well be my last APCM as a curate. For my own part, I want to say a huge thank you to all of you for your encouragement, support and love throughout my time here. Pontefract is – it's fair to say – a place with character! I've grown to love it here, discovering a community of warmth, friendship and faithfulness. Goodbyes would be quite premature, but suffice to say that when I do go, I will miss you all very deeply.

Churches, in general, are notorious for struggling with change. In one sense, this makes sense – we are guardians of ancient buildings and centuries-old traditions, and so we can be understandably uneasy about a world of fast-paced transformation. Yet, in another sense, it is Christian faith that provides the greatest possible resource for coping with change and transition – namely, our belief in an unchanging God. God is the one we look to provide stability; God is our foundation in a shifting and uncertain world. So we have nothing to fear from change, since nothing in the world can disturb the thing that matters most, which is the love of God.

The classic hymn “Great is Thy Faithfulness” begins like this:

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;  
there is no shadow of turning with Thee;  
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;  
as Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.

Christ has been the Church's one foundation before any of us were born, and will continue be the only rock on which we stand.

I commend to you our APCM booklet this year, and I'm very grateful for all who have written reports, which provide a great snapshot of the varied and wonderful life of our parish. A particular thank you to our administrator, Vivienne, who pulls it all together into a seamless whole.

Fr Sam Fletcher  
April 2023

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## **ST GILES' CHURCH (within the Benefice of Pontefract)**

St Giles' Church is situated at the heart of Pontefract town centre. There has been a church on this site since at least the 12th Century. A significant re-ordering took place in 2012-2013. The ecclesiastical parish includes a wide range of housing within its bounds including new housing on a former pit site. St Giles' Church of England Academy is within the parish, along with three other primary schools, a secondary academy, and New College, Pontefract. Pontefract General Infirmary, and the Prince of Wales hospice are also within the parish, along with leisure centres, a golf club, numerous retail outlets, and significant local employers such as the Haribo factory. St Mary's community centre is a significant community provision based in Chequerfield. St Mary's church meets weekly in this local centre.

The services at St Giles range from simple forms of worship to sung services. Our mid-week services follow a simpler form of Eucharistic worship.

The 10:15am Service of the Mass on Sunday mornings is a sung service with parts of the Eucharistic liturgy sung by our choir who rehearse weekly. On Feast Days incense is used at this service. Our children's group (St Giles 3.16) meets during the service.

Choral Evensong generally takes place on the first Sunday of the month except in August. Themed evening services have been held for occasions such as Epiphanytide and the coronation of His Majesty, King Charles III in May 2023.

On Friday's, between September and July, monthly organ recitals take place in church at 1.00pm. Our organ is one of the finest in the north of England.

St Giles' plays an active role in supporting local charities and organisations: several musical concerts take place in the church throughout the year.

No. 6, the leased shop on Chequerfield, has increased its profile providing a weekly pantry club for local residents to opt into and much needed food provision for families needing help in school holidays.

Every Wednesday between 12.30-2.00pm 'Lunch with Us' has provided food for the homeless and people with little resources.

There is also a church café serving coffee/teas and cakes, which is open on Wednesdays and Saturdays to coincide with the town's market days.

We have an active Mothers' Union, and a thriving toddler group (Tiddlywinks) which meets every Thursday morning.

The St Giles' Centre has several meeting rooms which are used by local groups as a venue for their activities. Open church, run by volunteers, enables the church building to be open throughout the week. This allows people to come in for quiet reflection, to light candles for loved ones and to pray. The Pontefract Foodbank continues to operate out of the St Giles Centre enabling the public to collect food and get help from Citizen's advice.

St Mary's is a small congregation of around 9 people who meet weekly in the St Mary's Community Centre. Services are Eucharistic, Common Worship Morning Prayer and occasional family services themed as appropriate. Messy Church takes place there on the third Sunday of the month.

Our bell ringers ring on Sundays before worship and practice on Mondays and from 2024 they will practice on Thursday evenings too.

These activities, which indicate 'public benefit', are described in more detail in this report.

## **AIMS AND PURPOSES**

St Giles' with St Mary's Parochial Church Council (PCC) in the Benefice of Pontefract, has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend Ian Bullock (from 13 March 2024), in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish of St Giles, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of St Giles' church, whereas St Mary's congregation meets in a building licensed for worship run by St Mary's Community Project.

## **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our churches and become part of our worshipping community at St Giles and at St Mary's. Broadly our vision is to be an open, welcoming, and inclusive church for all who visit and live within the parish of Pontefract.

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion by:

- offering the opportunity for individuals and families to come together for public worship, prayer, and teaching as part of our Sunday, midweek services, and evening worship.
- Continuing the teaching of Christianity through sermons, and seasonal learning events including confirmation classes.
- Offering 'Open Church' throughout the week which offers reflective and prayerful space for those who need a quiet environment to cope with life's challenges.
- Providing pastoral care through the occasional offices such as baptisms, funerals, and occasional weddings, as well as visiting the bereaved, those who are ill and taking the sacrament to them.
- Supporting our church school through governance, visiting church and taking collective worship, also supporting other local schools through occasional assemblies and visits to the church. Pastoral needs are also met through the provision of food parcels to designated families in school holidays.
- Offering the opportunity to explore matters of faith to children who join in with our Junior church provision.
- Offering through twice weekly coffee mornings, a weekly toddler group, monthly Mother's Union, and our weekly Lunch with Us, the space for people to come together for fellowship and friendship.
- Providing through 'Lunch with Us,' and the provision of perishable goods made available from local shops, the opportunity to eat without cost or make a small donation.

- Providing the community, through rooms made available as part of the St Giles' Centre, access to citizen's advice, a weekly chair exercise group, and a variety of meetings related to health and wellbeing.
- Supporting mission partnerships with other local churches as well as working with other civic and community organisations.
- Providing monthly organ concerts and being a venue for a variety of musical concerts that draw in the local community, such as The Pontefract Choral Society concerts.
- Representation on the St Mary's Community Project Management Committee which is a not-for-profit organisation offering a range of activities including adult education courses, and community activities.
- Supporting other charities in the UK and overseas through our mission giving (including a hardship fund) and the offering of prime town centre outside space for charities to use.
- Acknowledging our responsibilities to pay for ministry within our own parish and contributing to ministry provision within the wider diocesan church family by making parish share payments as fully as we are able.
- Maintaining the fabric of the Church of St. Giles to a high standard in order to provide a building that we can be proud of as a centre of worship and community mission in our town.

### **In 2023, we**

- Offered regular worship with at least 3, usually 4 regular services per week
- Continued to be a training parish offering a variety of ministry opportunities for our curate
- Continued to offer a monthly afternoon service for families on the Chequerfield estate
- Provided time and space for quiet contemplation and lighting of candles through the church being open set times every day in the week
- Provided a service for the local community to join in with the coronation of King Charles III
- Continued pastoral work including visiting the long term sick
- Conducting religious services in church and at the crematorium for the bereaved
- Provided chaplaincy support to the Prince of Wales Hospice
- Offered services of baptism for families seeking to mark a key life event
- Offered wedding services and services of blessing after a civic ceremony for couples marking a key life event
- Provided a service on All Souls Day for the community to remember the departed, also carol services before Christmas for the local community and a family orientated crib service
- Held services for 4 local schools around Christmas, engaged in school assemblies throughout the year and provided learning opportunities for schools to visit church as part of their curriculum activities
- Supported our church school and St Mary's Community Centre through membership of governing bodies
- Offered and supported civic services throughout the year

- Held some social events, including a beetle drive and fashion show
- Offered monthly organ recitals and a silent film show
- Hosted bell ringing teams from other churches to ring in our tower, and visiting organists to play our fantastic organ
- Provided a venue for musical concerts provided by local singing groups such as The Pontefract Choral Society with a male voice choir and the Fairburn Singers as well as hosting a Remembrance Day Concert with the Yorkshire Imperial Band
- Provided refreshments after worship for the congregation, enabling fellowship and friendship
- Provided a coffee morning for the community twice a week
- Continued to develop links with local community groups, such as the Civic Society, through active participation in Heritage week (bell tower tours and information sessions informing visitors about the ceiling bosses)
- Worked with Wakefield Council to illuminate the church windows as part of Light Up Pontefract
- Contributed to ecumenical work in the town through active participation in CTIP
- Provided community space within the St Giles Centre, including a weekly Citizen's Advice session, weekly chair exercise and facilitating the development of links with local community groups
- Had success in writing bids to gain grants that have enabled valuable community work to continue and to specifically enable the development of a new service for families during 2023
- Contributed to providing opportunities for people to be involved with community voluntary activities through practical care of the building, administration, bell ringing, joining a choir, staffing open church, helping with Lunch with Us and Tiddlywinks, hosting the local Foodbank, and volunteering as drivers as part of school holiday meals provision
- Held fundraising activities for local charities and church funds
- Supported designated charities in the UK and overseas through mission giving and collections for crisis situations
- Complied with statutory risk assessment through reviewing our Health and Safety policies, attending to the diocesan safeguarding dashboard policy requirements regarding child and vulnerable adult protection
- Supported the work of the diocese through membership of clergy chapter, deanery synod, diocesan synod and the work of our cathedrals through the vicar's membership of the college of canons.

Our achievements for 2023 are further detailed through the collection of reports presented as part of this booklet.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2017) and a registered charity, number 1135106. In June 2019, we became part of the newly created Benefice of Pontefract which includes the parish of All Saints, Pontefract, along with our own parish of St Giles with St Mary's.

Our correspondence address is: Parish Office, St Giles Church, Market Place,  
Pontefract, WF8 1AT  
Tel: 01977 790448  
Email: [stgileschurchpontefract@gmail.com](mailto:stgileschurchpontefract@gmail.com)

Bank: Virgin Money, 81 Carlton Street, Castleford, WF10 1BW

Insurance Provider: Ecclesiastical Insurance Group, Beaufort House, Brunswick Rd, Gloucester,  
GL1 1JZ

Architect: Mr David Barker, Associate Director based at Norwich Union House, High St,  
Huddersfield, HD1 2LR

Independent Examiner: Mr John Ransome, John Ransome Accountancy Services Ltd, 11  
Northleigh, East Hardwick, Pontefract, WF8 3DR

## **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

In June 2019, the union of the Benefice of All Saints', Pontefract, and the Benefice of St Giles, Pontefract, became a legal entity. The constituent parishes remain distinct. Canon June Lawson was appointed as the first incumbent of the new Benefice of Pontefract with The Revd Ian Bullock appointed from 13 March 2024.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules 2017. At St Giles' with St Mary's, the *ex-officio* membership of the PCC consists of the Incumbent (Vicar), other clergy licensed to the benefice, four churchwardens (elected at the Annual Meeting of parishioners), and the 12 members of the laity elected by those members of the congregations who are on the electoral roll of the church. All those who attend our services/members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC when vacancies occur.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. The Standing Committee is required under Church Representation Rules. It meets approximately 8 times a year to transact the business of the PCC between its full meetings including meeting prior to PCC's to set the agenda for the meeting. It also acts as the personnel committee of the PCC.

The PCC enable people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer, learning opportunities and opportunities to grow in discipleship through the whole Benefice and through signposting to diocesan resources
- Enabling pastoral care to those who live in the parish

- Community engagement
- Missionary support
- Caring for a grade 2 listed building, preserving the fabric for future generations, and developing our building as an asset for both the church and the wider community.
- Framing an annual budget to support this work
- Ensuring risk assessments regarding Financial Risk, Health and Safety, and Safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults are conducted regularly as part of its regular agenda

During 2023, the full PCC met 6 times with an average attendance of 72.17%.

The PCC has committees with Terms of Reference which deal with a particular aspect of parish life. These committees include the Standing Committee, the St Giles' Centre Management committee, the Fabric, Health and Safety committee, St Mary's Community committee, and the Missions Committee. All are responsible to the PCC and report back to it regularly with minutes of their decisions being received by the full PCC and discussed, as necessary.

The following people served as PCC members for all or part of the year 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023-31<sup>st</sup> December 2023:

Vicar and Chair (ex officio)	*The Revd Canon June Lawson (in vacancy from 13.09.2023)
Vice Chair	*Barbara Sessford (Acting Chair from 13.09.2023)
Churchwardens (ex officio)	*Bruce Dagleish *Peter Lavine *Pam Mercer *Barbara Sessford
Deanery Synod Representatives (ex officio)	Maureen Gummerson (resigned from 26.03.2023) Tony Williams (resigned from 26.03.2023) Ruth Carter (resigned from 26.03.2023)  Barbara Sessford (appointed from 26.03.2023) Jill Clapham (appointed from 26.03.2023)
PCC Members	Term of office expires 2024: Ulric Murray Position Vacant Position Vacant Position Vacant  Term of office expires 2025: Sonia Atkin David Belford Joan Taylor Position Vacant  Term of office expires 2026: Lynne Davis Karen Glynn

Term of Office Expires 2026:

Frank Ward

\*David Leigh

Clergy  
(ex officio)

Fr Rod Walker, Associate SSM (Priest)

Fr Michael Taylor, PTO (Priest)

Fr Mark Watkins, Associate stipendiary priest

Fr Sam Fletcher, stipendiary curate

\*indicates member of Standing Committee

The following appointments were made by the Parochial Church Council during the year 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023:

Sides-people	Linda Atkins John Barber Bill Bradley Barbara Chessman Janet Colvill Margaret Coverdale	Margaret Hopwood Ian Knox Barbara Lavine Maureen Milnes Peter Spurr Geoff Walsh Ian Wood
PCC Secretary / Church Administrator	Vivienne Smales	
Treasurer	David Leigh	
Health and Safety Officer	Peter Lavine	
Safeguarding Officer	Karen MacDonald (resigned from 26.03.2023) Christine Brown (appointed 26.03.2023)	
Electoral Roll Officer	Bevil Edwards	
Organist and Director of Music	James MacDonald	
Disability Officer	Barbara Sessford	
St Mary's Community Meeting Chair	Fr Michael Taylor	

## **VOLUNTEERS and Staff**

Our mission is sustained by the hard work and dedication of our staff and volunteers.

In addition to thanking our ministry team – Jill Clapham (LLM), Fr Michael Taylor, Fr Rod Walker, and now Fr Ian Bullock, I would also like to thank all the volunteers who work with such generosity to help our churches to thrive. During the interregnum, many people stepped up to

take on extra work and responsibilities to ensure the continuing flourishing of our churches, and I'm so grateful for this.

Weekly and mid-week services could not happen without the team who serve as lectors, intercessors, and servers; as Eucharistic ministers, sides-people, operators of the sound system, printers of service booklets, arrangers of such beautiful flowers throughout the year and our washer of church linen. We are also so grateful to all who help children and young people grow in faith - the St Giles 3:16 team, the Tiddlywinks leaders, and our baptism welcomers, co-ordinated by Mary Murray.

Our worship is enriched by our wonderful choir, led by our Musical Director and Organist, James Macdonald. Michael Phipps, our organ curator, is always willing to offer his time and expertise when the St Giles' organ needs attention. Our dedicated bell ringers have summoned us to worship, led by the tower captain, Adrian Garner and assisted by Karen Glynn.

Administration happens in the parish through our much-appreciated paid part-time administrator, Vivienne Smales, and through two dedicated volunteers, Stuart Lonsdale, and Jonathan Harris. Both give very generously of their time week by week attending to service booklets and other printing tasks including magazines for other churches. Jonathan Harris has ensured our presence on social media through our Facebook pages, twitter account and the national online platform 'a church near you.'

A large amount of work administering lettings goes on behind the scenes in the St Giles' Centre and so grateful thanks must go to Bill Bradley for his commitment to this.

The church members and wider community are served by numerous volunteers working as part of 'Lunch with Us' (a much-appreciated meal provision in the community), by those catering and serving refreshments as part of the regular coffee mornings, and as individuals staffing the Open Church rota, enabling the church to be open for the public is an important gift of sacred space for our town.

The caretaker, Ian Wood, a paid staff member, continues to keep our church clean and ensure those letting our rooms are looked after. A small team of volunteers, led by Peter Lavine, also look after the fabric and health safety of the church building.

Many members of St Giles serve on committees, not least the PCC and the St Giles' Centre committee, but also as members of Deanery and Diocesan Synods, as part of school governance and as trustees of the St Mary's Community Project. Their role is key to parish and diocesan governance.

Our Mission's Committee organise events to raise funds for our church supported charities. Other local and national charities are supported by individuals raising funds. Individuals organise whist drives, concerts and recitals, organise raffles (including guess the weight of the cake), host an annual fashion show, or run bric a brac stalls to help church and charity funds.

A big thank you goes to our churchwardens: Bruce Dalgleish, Peter Lavine, Pam Mercer, and Barbara Sessford, along with their weekly teams, who always work with such faithfulness and dedication. Frank Ward, St Mary's pro warden, who faithfully ensures that St Mary's can meet for worship week by week.

This year, a particular thank you must go to Bruce for his hard work in putting together our Parish Brochure during the appointment process.

David Leigh, church treasurer for so many years, has overseen and administered the church's accounts and its finances. His role takes a lot of time and hard work - counting and banking

money, paying invoices, populating spreadsheets, and then helping others to make sense of the figures. David is consistent in meeting these tasks with diligence.

I hope no team has been missed. If you have – many apologies; it makes your gift of time no less valuable to our ministry and mission.

Our church relies heavily on our volunteers, many of whom have given many years of faithful service. As we look to the future, it's clear that we'll only be able to sustain our work by bringing on-board new volunteers. If you have gifts to offer, or time to give, we would be so grateful.

Fr Sam Fletcher

## **STATUTORY REPORTS (Achievements and Performance)**

### **ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT**

After the report for the 2023 APCM had been submitted it was noted that unfortunately the late Doreen Shorthouse's name had not been removed from the roll and that the total number of members had been incorrectly recorded as 141 and not 140. The error was rectified and the number submitted to Diocesan House was stated correctly.

Notice of revision of the electoral roll was given on 25 February 2024 and the revision was concluded on 7 April 2024. Four applications for inclusion on the roll were received and the names and addresses of the applicants have been entered accordingly.

The details of two members who have died have been removed from the roll.

The number of members recorded on the roll at today's date is 142.

Bevil Edwards

Electoral Roll Officer

Date: 5 March 2023

### **REPORT ON THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

There followed another busy year for the PCC as a whole and for the various groups which report to the PCC.

Some of the significant areas that the PCC has considered are:

- Heritage week in September
- Risk Assessments on all areas of church life
- The church's budget, parish giving and fundraising
- Works undertaken on the fabric of the church including replacing of bulbs in all areas of the church to LEDs
- Staffing
- Parish Share
- Revising of Term of Reference for committees and church policies
- Receiving of committee reports inc community provision
- Work of the St Giles Foodshare and Pantry club
- Safeguarding dashboard updates, especially related to new role descriptions for leaders and members of teams
- Coronation of King Charles III – A service of commemoration
- Remembrance Day Concert and Remembrance Civic Service
- Continuation of Messy Church at St Mary's every third Sunday of the month

- Fees updates
- Digital Giving Device
- Continuing work on the installation of solar panels and applying for a faculty, planning permission and grants to help cover the cost of the installation.
- Future inclusion of the parishes of Carleton and East Hardwick into the benefice
- Talks with Rhubarb Radio to install an aerial on the roof of the church in return for a monthly hire fee, free advertising and reduced charges.

## **SAFEGUARDING**

Thank you for appointing me as your Parish Safeguarding Officer. Following my retirement as Safeguarding Manager and Pastoral Lead at St Giles C of E Academy after just over 30 years I was quite anxious as to how I would fill my time. Everyone told me that God would have a plan and sure enough he did! I was approached by Canon June and I had little hesitation in accepting this role.

As many of you are aware I Worship at All Saints' so to keep in touch I call in to St Giles on a regular basis. I have been in constant contact with Vivienne and would like to thank her for the assistance she has given me and also for answering my numerous questions. Also many thanks to Father Sam, the Churchwardens and everyone for making me welcome.

The church complies with Diocesan Safeguarding Policies and Practices, with regular updating of the Diocesan Safeguarding Dashboard. This guides the work of the PCC in fulfilling its statutory obligations.

The PCC continues to commit to carrying out the Church of England policy for Safeguarding; it also reaffirms that everyone is responsible for safeguarding children and vulnerable adults irrespective of their role within the church community, with any concerns being reported to the Safeguarding Officer, Clergy or a member of the PCC.

All members of St Giles' who are, due to the nature of their post (voluntary or otherwise) are currently in receipt of an enhanced DBS check and this information is confidentially stored with the parish administrator. Post holders and volunteers have all received the necessary clearance to fulfil their roles. In line with new guidance from the Diocese, from January 2024 all DBS checks are to be renewed every 3 years rather than 5.

Actions completed:

- All the necessary training has been completed together with some non-compulsory courses, which I feel help understand all matters of Safeguarding within our Community.
- Updates completed to the Parish Dashboard which now stands at 98%. The Safeguarding Dashboard helps to make sure everything is completed on time and if there are matters outstanding then notification is received and can be completed asap.
- Updates completed to the Parish Safeguarding Hub Level 2. This facility helps keep Safeguarding on track. It also provides job descriptions, policies etc which are helpful in Safeguarding procedures.

- Tutorials for the Safeguarding Hub have been completed.
- Liaison with Vivienne Smales continues in connection with DBS checks and I have been appointed as an additional Checker.
- All Safeguarding disclosures are kept confidential, safe and secure.
- Reviews of all Policies, Risk Assessments has taken place.
- Safeguarding Training is essential for all Officers of the Church, this is reviewed on a regular basis. Any outstanding training is requested to be completed as soon as possible.
- Safeguarding concerns should be reported to the Safeguarding Officer, Clergy or a member of the PCC.

***Safeguarding is not one person's responsibility, it is the responsibility of all. If at any time you have any Safeguarding concerns please report it as soon as possible.***

Christine Brown  
Parish Safeguarding Officer

## **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

Please refer to the Financial statements at the end of this booklet.

### **FINANCIAL RESERVES POLICY**

A Financial Reserves Policy is annually agreed by the PCC.

“Under normal conditions the PCC within has adopted a policy to maintain a balance of unrestricted funds which equates to circa six months of the unrestricted funds normal annual expenditure. Certain of these funds are from time to time earmarked for designated purposes.”

## **REPORT ON THE FABRIC, HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE 2023**

Condition of the fabric

It is now eighteen months since the south nave roof was completely refurbished and to date no defects have occurred. It is also noted that since improvements to the north aisle roof were carried out last year we have not suffered any ingress of rain water. This is due to the fact that the large drainage channels installed on the aisle roof carry most of the water away during extreme storms.

We have had our quinquennial inspection carried out by the church architect, David Barker and I am pleased to say that there was nothing serious to comment on. We spoke at length about our desire to install solar pv panels on the south aisle roof and he was very supportive of this along with the installation of a small radio transmitter on the tower roof should approval be given.

All the mandatory tests and examinations that are required to enable the church to operate legally and safely have been completed as have the five yearly electrical installation inspection which has been carried out by the church electricians (Sycamores).

We have spent the last twelve months replacing the fluorescent fittings in the church and, to date, most of the lights in the east end (ground and first floor), and the first floor rooms, landings and stairs in the west end have been replaced with more economical LED fittings. This will also act to reduce our carbon footprint in line with the C of E directive. The challenge this coming year will be to replace the lights in the cafe and baptistery area. As for the main lights in the nave, this will be a much bigger project as we will endeavour to switch to LED lighting whilst retaining the original fittings. It is worth noting at this time that replacing these lights is necessary as fluorescent lights will no longer be available after this coming year as production ceases.

The annual planned schedule of maintenance has been completed by our regular maintenance team, who continue to conscientiously go about their duties on our behalf. Long may that continue. I'll take this opportunity to welcome Ian Knox to our team.

I mentioned earlier that our architects support for the proposed solar project on the south aisle roof and I would just like to elaborate on that for a moment; We have engaged a company to design and install the panels and along with our structural engineer and church architect we hope to deliver a cost effective solution to reducing our reliance on energy suppliers. Again this will also reduce our carbon footprint. We are still in the planning phase and two big hurdles await us. One is permissions from the church authorities and the local authority planning department and the other is funding. We will endeavour to apply for grants to cover the cost, but if you feel you would like to help with a financial contribution to allow this important project to go forward, please speak with myself, David Leigh, the treasurer, or the vicar.

Peter Lavine on behalf of the Fabric, Health and Safety Committee.

## **REPORT ON THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE DEANERY SYNOD**

The Deanery Synod has met once since our 2023 APCM. The meeting took place at St Luke's Church Grimethorpe, which is a member of the Priory Benefice, on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2023. Representatives from St Giles were Fr Sam Fletcher, Barbara Sessford and Jill Clapham.

Rev, Margaret Gallagher, the Area Dean opened the meeting with prayers as it was the first meeting for some of the Deanery Synod. Rev. Margaret gave a presentation on being a member of the Deanery Synod and how that feeds into the Diocesan Synod and the General Synod. Rev Joyce Jones, General Synod rep also gave a talk on the workings of the General Synod.

Elections then took place for Lay Chair, Standing Committee, Secretary and Treasurer, all posts were filled except for Secretary which remains vacant.

Other news from the Deanery included the announcement of the new Archdeacon of Pontefract, Rev. Cat Thatcher and the Measure to create a new Benefice to include Knottingley, Ferrybridge, Womersley, Kellington and Brotherton was disseminated to the representatives. Following the success of the 2023 Youth Pilgrimage to Walsingham the Deanery is planning to take a group of young people to Walsingham in August 2024.

Fr Sam Fletcher presented a motion on behalf of St Giles PCC regarding the Church Commissioners releasing money for the installation of solar panels on suitable church buildings. After some discussion an amendment was agreed on, the motion was taken to the Diocesan Synod in March 2024. The next meeting of the Deanery Synod will take place at ST Margaret's South Elmsall on Saturday 13 April 2024.

Jill Clapham

## **NON-STATUTORY REPORTS (Achievements and Performance)**

### **BAPTISM MINISTRY**

Baptism services have continued to be held twice a month at 12.15pm, following the Sunday morning Eucharist. The majority of the bookings are now made by email through the church office and the family is then sent information (by email), highlighting the role and importance of Godparents, the role of the Baptism Welcomer, and explaining the need to attend a Preparation Meeting with a member of the clergy shortly before the date of the Baptism. The Baptism Welcomer is also present at the meeting, ensuring that there is a familiar face on the day of the Baptism and, most importantly, someone who represents the church family into which the candidate is being admitted.

There have been 20 baptisms at the Sunday morning service in 2023. Of these, 6 were babies under the age of 1 year; 6 were children aged between 1 and 4 years and 4 were children over the age of 5 years. Four adults were baptised. In addition, 3 adults were baptised prior to their Confirmation in September.

Our team of Baptism Welcomers has numbered 8 this year. Warm thanks to one and all! And I need to give special thanks to Margaret Hopwood who has retired after many years of valuable and willing ministry. The main body of administration has been efficiently and sympathetically managed by Vivienne Smales - thank you Vivienne!

Anyone who wishes to find out more about the role of Baptism Welcomer can speak with a member of the clergy, myself, or a member of the Welcoming team.

Mary Murray

### **BELL RINGING**

It has been a busy year for the bell ringers! Our numbers continue to grow and we now have 15 regular ringers. We are nearly at the point where all 10 bells are being rung on Sunday morning for the first time in years. Our aim is to grow our numbers so that we can split the band on Sunday mornings with some people ringing at St Giles' and another group ringing at All Saints', subject to the condition of the bells at All Saints' being inspected. Recently we welcomed one of the youngest ringers (aged 8) in UK to our numbers.

We have regular trips to ring at other towers in Yorkshire. Adrian and a small group regularly go out to other towers on the second Saturday of the month. A group of us recently attended a practice evening at Barnburgh to support a new band of ringers there. The narrow wooden staircase up to the ringing chamber at Barnburgh was an interesting experience! We are hoping to have another trip to Taylor's of Loughborough (see the report in the November magazine) to see some bells being cast.

We are looking to purchase a new set of ropes and have approached Wakefield Council for a Year of Culture grant. We're still waiting for the clock chimes to be repaired. Our closing bank balance at our 2023 AGM was £847.87 with an income of £105.

If you or someone that you know would be interested in learning how to ring and to help us to grow our numbers, please get in touch with Adrian on 07790 956257 to organise a taster session.

Adrian Garner  
Tower Captain

## **FLOWER TEAM**

The Flower Fairies remain a small but enthusiastic team.

During the last year we have continued to create floral arrangements to enhance our Church to the glory of God. Last year we also had a fund raising project and produced a Calendar, which sold well in aid of church funds.

As always, we are very grateful to all those who sponsor the Flowers. You are never asked to meet the full cost of the Flowers so any donation is always most appreciated.

The Flower Team.

## **JUNIOR CHURCH – ST GILES' 3:16**

Church members are now used to our new name, which changed to become more inclusive and to encourage our young people to continue to learn with us after the age of 11 years when they traditionally left Junior School for Secondary education. It was also chosen because of the verse in St John's Gospel: 'God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believed in him may not die but have eternal life'.

We teach many of our lessons through Godly Play lessons. This works well for us as we have a wide age range from four to fourteen and relies on not only telling Bible stories through the use of the little figures we have made, but also asks our children to wonder? Recently we wondered what part of the Easter story was the most important and which part they liked the most. These open-ended questions make our teaching accessible to all ages.

We always start with our own prayer written by children a few years ago that involve actions to accompany our prayer and a lighted candle (battery operated).

During the last year we have been looking at symbolism in the everyday world we see around us and also the symbolism we see in church. We have recently been comparing the life Jesus would have led as a young boy with their own lives. We compared our houses with that of Jesus and also the places we worship. Leading on from this, using arts and crafts to develop understanding, we made Torah Scrolls to explain that Jesus as a Jew would have a different type of Holy Book to the Bible we use, although many of the stories are the same. We used Noah's Ark as an example as it is a story the younger children know. The children love coming back into church and sharing what we have been doing with the congregation.

We try to link our teaching programme to Christian festivals in the Liturgical Year and most of all make learning in St Giles 3:16 fun!

Lynne and Stephanie

## **LUNCH WITH US REPORT**

Lunch with Us is an important mission in our church serving some of the most vulnerable members of our community. It is flourishing and continues to welcome regular, occasional and new customers.

Our amazing team of volunteers from St Giles', St Joseph's and St Stephen's East Hardwick are dedicated to giving everyone an enjoyable experience.

We operate on a voluntary donation basis if people can afford to pay and we apply for occasional grants.

I would encourage anyone to come along one Wednesday to have lunch and meet some of our customers and volunteers.

Barbara Sessford  
Lunch with Us Coordinator

## **MESSY CHURCH**

Messy Church continues to meet on the third Sunday of every month, 4pm at St Mary's Church. In January, the responsibility for co-ordinating Messy Church was passed from Fr Sam to Jill Clapham, who oversees a group of wonderful and committed volunteers.

Each service includes craft activities, music, storytelling from the bible, prayers, a Christian message, and a free meal. It is aimed at people of all ages, and aimed at being accessible to children and families. Messy Church provides an important opportunity for mission, consciously reaching out to those with little or no experience of church, and providing an accessible and welcoming space in which to hear the Gospel message. This missional opportunity is strengthened by our location in the heart of Chequerfield estate, where there are a number of families with children.

It is broadly publicised, including through flyering in Chequerfield, being advertised in various schools, to our Tiddlywinks group, and to baptism families. In the year to come, we would like to expand our reach by focusing on a distinctive and creative social media presence for Messy Church, which will be crucial in reaching our target demographic.

Numbers at Messy Church fluctuate, and one of our hopes for the future is that we will be able to build a more consistent community of regular attendees. In March 2024, 18 people attended, including 5 children/young people.

Our initial funding from the Bishop's Development Fund, in addition to the PCC Mission budget, continues to provide the money we need for resources, including craft materials and food.

We encourage all members of our congregations to come along to Messy Church, and bring family and friends.

Fr Sam Fletcher

## **THE MISSIONS COMMITTEE REPORT**

Once again, our main fundraising activity was the monthly Saturday morning coffee.

Fundraising activities other than coffees were a beetle drive held in the February half-term and a chocolate tombola at Easter.

The five charities we continue to support are:

### **The Leprosy Mission**

TLM offers rehabilitation, education, vocational training, small business loans, housing and fresh water and sanitation to tens of thousands of leprosy sufferers each year. We sent a contribution to help with this valuable work.

### **Church Missionary Society**

We helped fund Andrew and Andrea Young, who work on behalf of the CMS, providing pastoral care to United Mission in Nepal.

### **Mara**

Majengo Mapya is our link parish near Musoma on Lake Victoria and we sent a contribution to assist with the continuing work being done there.

### **The Church Army**

The Missions Committee donate towards their work in some of the very deprived areas in the UK.

### **The Missions to Seafarers**

They work worldwide to support seafarers, giving specialist help in a crisis.

The Missions Committee thanks our congregation for their continuing support.

Edie Barber  
Treasurer and Secretary

## **MOTHERS' UNION**

We have 24 members; we started our year with our Wave of Prayer service followed by our New Year social. During the year we have had some interesting speakers, we had our annual outing and went to Peace Hall and Halifax and a garden centre on the way home. In July we had our

afternoon tea. We held our AGM in November followed by a pie & pea lunch. Jill led our Advent service in December and followed this with a Christmas lunch.

The fashion show we held in April was very successful and we had a bottle stall and guess the weight of the cake.

We supported 'Make a Mother's Day' and our donations to MU projects were £100 to Summer of Hope, £300 to Worldwide Fund, £150 to Away from It All Holidays, and £150 to Upkeep of the caravans.

We nominated a family for a holiday last, they had a wonderful holiday at Filey which the children will never forget.

Marjorie Laidlaw  
MU Secretary

## **MUSIC REPORT**

The choir continues to enhance worship at Saint Giles'. We look forward to welcoming back (later this year) Tom Moore, to give the last recital of our current series. I must reinforce my thanks to Michael Phipps who continues to generously support the maintenance of the organ, which is one of the country's finest. I cannot express enough my gratitude and deepest appreciation of our marvellous choir who, each week, sing beautifully. Thank you so much for your dedication. Choral Evensong is on the first Sunday each month (usually) so please do come along and support them.

The now 'not-so-new' mass setting by Peter Nardone is part of the repertoire which allows more congregational involvement. It's a tuneful and uplifting setting so please do join in, as it's now firmly embedded in our worship. You can even make mistakes - music in worship is there to be embraced so feel free to sing your hearts out! Lots of new hymns and anthems have been introduced and I am excited by expanding our repertoire further.

The Friday Organ recital series continues to attract a growing number of enthusiasts, and the recitalists are always grateful for the warm Ponte welcome they receive! To those of you who support it: thank you. It really is an important part of our musical heritage which, midst the technologically dependant world in which we now live, allows for a celebration of tradition and an opportunity to enjoy exceptional music. We may increase the number of these if they continue to be well-supported.

James MacDonald  
Organist and Director of Music

## **OPEN CHURCH**

It doesn't seem two minutes since the last time I was writing this! We continue our mission to keep church open most days for between two and four hours because of our great team of volunteers. It is important for the church to be open to allow people to come into church to pray or maybe to chat to volunteers or to simply be quiet.

We would love for some new people to come and join our team. Even if you can't make it every week, or you would like to join the reserve list, your help would be greatly appreciated.

Barbara Sessford

## **PARISH MAGAZINE**

The magazine continues in its new, coloured format, at its new price of £1 for 10 issues, without any noticeable decrease in circulation. Thanks are due to our several new contributors - not least Razzie the border terrier - who allow our pages to be filled, in most editions, with interesting, sometimes thought-provoking, reports and articles. Thanks too, to Vivienne, for her faultless proof-reading and her support in allowing the magazine to be published, mostly, on time.

Bruce Dagleish

## **PASTORAL CARE**

Pastoral care is a central part of our parish's ministry, and this has been maintained through the vacancy.

We have a core pastoral care team comprising Fr Sam, Jill Clapham, and Pam Mercer (and, now, Fr Ian). We currently take Home Communion on a monthly basis to 7 regular home communicants, as well as those who receive home communion on a temporary or one-off basis. This is in addition to the pastoral visiting by our clergy, which we arrange as the need arises, including hospital and hospice visits where appropriate. We support people facing a wide variety of difficulties, including grief, isolation and ill health.

To help us in this work, we rely also upon the strong network of friendships that exist within church. We are thankful to be part of a church community in which people show so much love and care for one another, and are grateful for those occasions when church members have alerted us to pastoral needs on behalf of their friends. While our pastoral ministry team takes on particular responsibilities, the task of providing support and caring for one another is shared by the whole church.

Our clergy also offer pastoral care to those outside of our congregation – for example, as part of our funeral ministry. Care and support of various kinds is also offered from church members to those outside the church, for example through Lunch With Us and the Food Share at No. 6.

In summary, through our pastoral ministry, we continue to provide important spiritual and emotional support to our congregations and the wider community.

Fr Sam Fletcher

## **SERVING TEAM REPORT**

Members of our congregation and choir have continued to volunteer their time during both our regular worship and special services throughout the past year. New faces have appeared whilst some of our regular team members have stepped down after giving many years of service. We are blessed at St Giles with so many people willing to take their turn reading the lessons, leading intercessions, serving at the altar, and serving as eucharistic ministers. Each of these ministries are important components of our church life and we would like to thank everyone for their continued dedication. There is always room for new volunteers so if you feel called to any of these roles please speak to our Licensed Lay Minister Jill Clapham, Fr Ian or Fr Sam, support and training is available.

Jill Clapham

## **ST GILES' MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

The Management Committee has met on 5 occasions during the year. At the July meeting members expressed thanks to Canon June for her excellent work as Chair and wished her well in her future role in Rochester. Ulric Murray volunteered to take on the role until the new Vicar was appointed.

Centre usage by community groups and local organisations during 2023 was substantially higher compared with the previous 3 years which were severely affected by the Covid restrictions. Income from room rentals amounted to £14606.40 compared to £4318 in 2022 (an increase of 238%) largely due to the National Lottery Community Award of £6290 which covered the annual cost of room hire by Citizens Advice and associated caretaking costs.

Additional income of £743.00 from a further grant was received in January 2023 from the Asda Foundation Cost of Living Grant Scheme to create and incorporate a Warm Space within the Centre. The project operated between January and March 2023 as an extension of the Wednesday Lunch with Us project utilising additional space within a safe and welcoming environment and included the provision of hot drinks and refreshments. The Warm Space project also operated on Thursdays in association with the Foodbank operation and Financial Inclusion Advisory service which offered help to those in food poverty.

A further grant application to the National Lottery Community Fund was made at the end of the year to cover Citizens Advice room hire costs for the next two years i.e. until the end of December 2025. A decision is expected in early 2024.

A successful application was made to NOVA for membership of the Third Sector Framework which enables us to make future grant requests. A subsequent grant application made through the Wakefield District's Third Sector Framework for a West Yorkshire Combined Authority Community Grant for Climate Change for the installation of solar panels on the roof of the south aisle was unsuccessful due to limited available funding. The panel chose to support other organisations where match funding has already been secured, giving greater confidence that all work could be completed by the deadline of 31 December 2024 as stipulated by WYCA.

At the May meeting of the committee it was agreed to increase room hire rates by 5% due to the impact of increasing levels of inflation and particularly how this has affected the church energy costs. The increase in charges was again well below the rate of inflation at that time.

Centre activities during the year -

- The weekly Chair Exercise classes continue to be popular.
- Citizens Advice service every Wednesday
- Carers Wakefield & District held four weekly Cook & Eat courses in January/February.
- Conexus Healthcare sessions
  - Pre Diabetes one-to-one fortnightly sessions January – June
  - Pre Diabetes one-to-one and Group fortnightly sessions September – December
  - Chronic Pain 7-week pilot programme October - December
- Pontefract Foodbank food collection and advisory service continued to operate every Thursday throughout the year and added a Wednesday Drop-In Money Advice service from June until the end of the year.
- SWYP NHS Trust (Baghill House) completed a weekly 9 session's Mindfulness+ course in May - July.
- Wakefield Recovery and Wellbeing College courses –
  - Creative Crafting course - 6 weekly sessions ending in July.
  - 5 other courses cancelled or withdrawn due to lack of student numbers or tutor illness.
- Hospice Music Therapy Group - 8 weekly sessions June - July
- Pontefract Choral Society held concerts in June and December.
- The Fairburn Singers concert was held on 22 September.
- Numerous church activities throughout the year including Tiddlywinks, MU Fashion show, PCC and SC meetings, Missions Committee Beetle Drive, Lent course, Wednesday and Saturday coffee mornings, Centre Management Committee meetings, Silent Film evening with organ, Remembrance Day concert, Advent course,

The weekly Lunch with Us meals service continued to provide a full service throughout the year in the café area. The project is satisfying a continual and increasing demand with a weekly average of 90 meals to 45 people served by 9 volunteers.

(2022 figures: 72.5 meals/35 people/7.8 volunteers)

The Centre Committee continues to oversee the Holiday Food Share and Food Pantry projects which are based at No.6 The Circle in Chequerfield and has established a sub-committee comprising of 3 members to provide additional support to Paul and Ann regarding management of the project and future developments.

The Committee is now looking ahead to maintain the increasing use of the Centre during 2024 and has already received a number of new room hire bookings and enquiries.

- Additional Conexus Healthcare Pre Diabetes 1:1 and group sessions
- Wakefield Recovery and Wellbeing College courses
- Wakefield Discovery College courses
- Extended Foodbank and Drop-In Money Advice sessions until at least September 2024.
- Pontefract Choral Society concerts in March, June and December
- Castleford Singers July concert
- Featherstone Male Voice Choir July concert

The committee wishes to express its thanks to Vivienne (Secretary), David (Treasurer) and Ian our caretaker for all their help and support throughout the year.

Committee Membership: Fr. Sam, Vivienne Smales (Secretary), David Leigh (Treasurer), David Belford, Bill Bradley, Ulric Murray, Fr Rod, Barbara Sessford and Joan Taylor.

Bill Bradley

*Please see the Appendix for Financial accounts.*

## **ST GILES' FOOD SHARE & PANTRY CLUB**

By the end of 2022, we were beginning to reach our capacity for both the Pantry Club and Holiday Food Share: throughout 2023, these have respectively been running at 25-30 families each week and 40-45 families each holiday provision.

Pantry Club continues to help stop families falling into crisis and to support families who have moved on from the Foodbank's emergency support. We are developing our service delivery through cooperation with the Foodbank, by signposting to its financial inclusion model which helps families to maximise benefit claims and to get help with financial worries.

Nominations to Holiday Food Share have remained high, totalling 385 families (comprising over 1600 people) through the year. As each parcel contains the ingredients for about 8-9 meals per person in each household, the estimated number of meals provided this year is over 13000.

Both forms of provision mean that a substantial amount of food passes through No 6 during the year. We are very grateful for the ongoing contributions of food from the regular collections at St Giles' and All Saints' Churches, donations made by and through our local Morrisons and Asda, and occasional input from Pontefract Trussell Trust Foodbank. The weekly deliveries from FareShare have been financed by WMDC. We aim to provide fresh fruit and vegetables as often as possible, mainly from FareShare and Morrisons but also through purchases using grants from wdh. Our bread supply is now reliant on weekly deliveries by Wakefield Street Kitchen and FareShare. We have also benefitted from Harvest donations from local schools and support from Smiles for Miles in the form of sufficient Adent Calendars and Easter Eggs for the children in our families.

However, much of the food we distribute has to be purchased. In 2022, our expenditure was around £3500; in 2023, this has risen to some £14000, a four-fold increase. Subscriptions from Pantry members contributed £3500 in 2023, so we are heavily reliant on financial donations from Church members, members of the local community who call into the shop, and a local firm as well as grants channelled through WMDC, and given by wdh, Yorkshire Building Society and even Hillards Charitable Trust.

We are keen to build strong community partnerships. Our longstanding relationship with wdh is a two-way one: including their generous charity lease of No 6 on the one hand and nominations of families who need our support on the other. Likewise we benefit from local schools' knowledge of families who are struggling and receive occasional donations from their food collections. Our shop window is used to promote services and events of interest and we welcome local people calling in at the shop.

We see ourselves as part of the Benefice's outreach in the community and continue to take part in the annual Community Showcase. We value the support not only of food and monetary donations, but also the time given by a team of about 12 volunteers who help both with the Pantry Club and with Holiday Food. We are developing stronger policies and procedures so that we can draw on voluntary input from within the community.

Paul & Ann Harris

## **ST MARY'S REPORT 2023**

The worship offered at St Mary's is broad. Holy Communion, twice a month. Morning Worship once. Messy Church once.

With the exception of Messy Church which is at 4.00 pm the others begin at 9.00 am.

The congregation at 9.00 am is on average 10. We have lost 3 members to another church within our Benefice.

The committee meets on an Ad Hoc basis at the home of Fr Michael. Minutes submitted to the PCC.

We work as a team and my thanks go to all.

Fr Michael

## **SOCIAL MEDIA**

2023 was another busy year in terms of social media. The number of like and followers across all platforms has seen an increase.

The Facebook page had 477 likes and has 570 followers.

The Benefice X (Twitter) account has 144 followers.

St Giles' A Church Near You page has had 14180 page views in the last year and St Mary's A Church Near You page has had 15191 page views in the last year.

All figures correct as of 23/03/24.

Jonathan Harris

## **TIDDLYWINKS REPORT**

Last year was very encouraging and we managed to maintain maximum numbers throughout the year and the weather allowed us to hold our usual church session at the castle, much to the delight of the children.

Like the whole of the nation we also held a party in celebration of the King's Coronation. We made crowns and the children dressed in red, white and blue with a party to follow.

We meet every Thursday from 10:30am to 12.00pm in term time for a short children's service, which includes a story, prayers and songs accompanied by noisy musical instruments. The children then do various craft activities so they have something to take home to show their parents/ guardians. This is followed by playtime in the cafe area and refreshments.

This year, thanks to the generosity of our users, we have been able to make donations to church who provide us with a warm, welcoming place for our meetings.

Our group consists of Sandra Cutting, Jill Townsend, Elaine Troughton, Sheila Roydhouse and Barbara Lavine.

## **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT**

### **The Benefice of Pontefract: The Parish of St Giles with St Mary's Pontefract,**

### **Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31 December 2023**

I report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2023 which are set out from pages 32-38.

#### ***Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner.***

- The church's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts.
- The church's trustees 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)
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

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 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 you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

#### ***Independent Examiner's statement:***

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

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act and the Regulations 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.

Name: Mr John Ransome (signed on page 32)

Address: John Ransome Accountancy Services Ltd  
11 Northleigh, East Hardwick, Pontefract, WF8 3DR

# ST GILES' PCC – FINANCIAL STATEMENT YEAR ENDING 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2023

## RESTRICTED FUND DETAILS AT 31.12.2023:

Fund	£	
Belfry	912.87	
Hardship	1,793.33	
Choir	338.90	
Flower	539.47	
Junior Church	21.19	
Missions	2,124.14	
Garden	0.00	
Sanctuary	0.00	
MU Weds Coffee Fund	799.17	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,529.07</b>	

## ST. GILES' PCC

## BANK ACCOUNTS @ 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2023

	Year End 2022		Year End 2023	
<b>Virgin Money Current Account</b>	14,325.80		<b>6,109.48</b>	
<b>Yorkshire Bank / VM Investment</b>	75,719.51		<b>40,000.00</b>	
<b>Yorkshire Building Society</b>	1,356.62	91,401.93	<b>56,378.96</b>	<b>102,488.44</b>
<b>Creditors</b>		0		0
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		91,401.93		<b>102,488.44</b>
<b>Breakdown of Assets:</b>				
<b>General PCC Funds</b>	75,224.61		<b>77,878.72</b>	
<b>Designated Funds</b>	9,325.60		<b>10,356.40</b>	
<b>Restricted Funds</b>	6,851.72		<b>6,529.07</b>	
<b>St Mary's Designated Fund</b>	0	91,401.93	<b>7,724.25</b>	<b>102,488.44</b>
<b>Cash Deficit/ Surplus</b>		(5,982.76)		<b>11,086.51</b>

Signed:



David Leigh, Treasurer, St Giles PCC

Signed:



Chair, St. Giles PCC

### Statement by Independent Examiner:

I certify that the above Balance Sheet and accompanying documentation with records, vouchers, receipts and other information produced are a true and accurate record.

Signed:



John Ransome (John Ransome Accountancy Services Limited)

January 2024

## ST GILES' WITH ST MARY'S

### PCC – FINAL SUMMARY of RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS 2023

<b>Income</b>	<b>Budget to Year End</b>	<b>Actual</b>		
<b>Direct Giving</b>				
Contactless Giving	1000		1423	
Standing Orders - Gift Aided	22000		27334	
FWO & Cash - Gift Aided	7000		5092	
FWO & Cash - Not Gift Aided	3000		3703	
Gift Aid Tax Refund	10000	43000	12703	50256
<b>Legacies / Donations</b>				
Legacies & Donations	4000		6711	
Rental Income	12000	16000	8400	15111
<b>Weddings / Funerals / Baptisms</b>				
Fees	4000		4885	
Collections	3000	7000	3525	8410
<b>Other Income</b>				
Parish Magazine - Sales & Adverts	1000		455	
Printing	1500		1462	
Refreshments	7500	10000	9343	11260
<b>Fundraising</b>				
Christmas Draw	1250			
Other	1250	2500		5025
<b>St Mary's (S/Os &amp; Parish Share)</b>	4225	4225		4225
<b>Sundries</b>		2275		283
<b>Sanctuary Items</b>		2500		1800
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>87500</b>		<b>96369</b>

<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Budget to Year End</b>	<b>Actual</b>		
<b>Buildings</b>				
Insurance	5200		5329	
Repairs & Renewals	3800	9000	4655	9985
<b>Utilities</b>				
Electricity	6000		5987	
Gas	6000		4473	
Water	500		691	
Phones & Internet	750	13250	951	12127
<b>Administration</b>				
Clergy Expenses	2000		1641	

Funeral Fees	1000		1155	
Caretaker & Parish Administrator Wages	15000		15571	
		18000		18367
<b>Publishing</b>				
Photocopier Rental & Printing	2250		2548	
Stationery	2000		1958	
		4250		4507
<b>Organist &amp; Musicians</b>				
Organist	6500		6645	
Misc. (inc tuning)	1500	8000	760	7405
<b>Mission Activities</b>		1000		690
<b>Sundries</b>				
Refreshments	1000		1361	
Misc.	1275	2275	2098	3459
<b>Sanctuary Items</b>		1500		1925
<b>St Giles' Parish Share</b>				
Common Fund (G £55858, M £3565)		56000		29000
<b>St Mary's Parish Share</b>				
Common Fund Contribution	3565			
Standing Orders	660	4225		3895
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>117500</b>		<b>91358</b>
		<b>Budget</b>		<b>Actual</b>
<b>TOTAL ST GILES PCC RECEIPTS</b>		<b>87500</b>		<b>96369.00</b>
<b>TOTAL ST GILES PCC EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>117500</b>		<b>91358.38</b>
<b>SUM OF RECEIPTS AGAINST PAYMENTS 2023</b>				<b>5010.62</b>
<b>Net Cash Transfers 2023</b>				<b>6075.89</b>
<b>TOTAL CASH SURPLUS / DEFICIT 2023</b>				<b>11086.51</b>
<b>Current State of Accounts:</b>	<b>31-Dec-23</b>	<b>end 2022</b>	<b>end 2021</b>	
Yorkshire Building Society	£56,378.96	£1,356.62	<b>£1,316.25</b>	
Virgin Money Current Account (31/12)	£6,109.48	£14,325.80	<b>£20,654.20</b>	

Yorkshire Bank Invested	£40,000.00	£75,719.51	<b>£75,414.24</b>
TOTAL	£102,488.44	£91,401.93	<b>£97,384.69</b>
General PCC Funds	£77,878.72	£75,224.61	<b>£94,537.20</b>
Restricted Funds	£6,529.07	£6,851.72	<b>£4,798.63</b>
Designated Funds	£10,356.40	£9,325.60	<b>-£1,951.14</b>
St Mary's Designated Fund	£7,724.25	£0.00	

**Notes:**

Parish Share

The agreed final payment for 2023 of £29,000 has been made.

Expenditure

The gas bill for the year is estimated to be £7,000. (£4,473 paid to date).

Scottish Power (electricity) expenditure this calendar year is £5987

The Centre Designated Fund is £6,938.54

The Food Share (No. 6 The Circle) Restricted Fund is £14,529.25

**DJL**

**31st December 2023**

**Approved on behalf of the PCC by Barbara Sessford, PCC Vice-Chair and Fr Sam Fletcher, Curate**

**12 March 2024**

**(Parish in Vacancy)**

## ST GILES' WITH ST MARY'S, PONTEFRACT

### Summary of St Giles' Centre Accounts 2023

#### Income

Room Rentals	£ 4,525	(£4,296 in 2022)
Misc. Donations	£ 70	
Pontefract Food Bank	£ 3,437	
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£ 8,032</b>

#### Expenditure

Part Time Caretaker (50% of wage)	£ 2,600
Part Time Parish Administrator (10% of wage)	£ 900
Contribution to Utilities	£ 4,900
Green Route Media	£ 500
Alamo Annual Maintenance Contract	£ 0
Pontefract In Bloom	£ 207

**TOTAL** **£ 9,107**

Trading Loss 2023 **£ 1,075**

St Giles' Centre Bank Balance at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 **£ 6,938.54**  
(of which £1458.81 belongs to Lunch With Us)

**DJL January 2024**

## **ST GILES' WITH ST MARY'S, PONTEFRACT**

### **Lunch with Us Account Summary 2023**

4825 meals were served in 2023.

The venture had a turnover of £ 1,614 in 2023, £604 of which was subsidy from LwU funds.

Lunch With Us had a positive bank balance of £ 1458.81 as at December 31<sup>st</sup> 2023.

Many thanks to all who contributed towards this very worthwhile venture.

Our 400<sup>th</sup> session of Lunch with Us was celebrated on December 13<sup>th</sup> 2023.

**DJL January 2024**

**ST GILES' WITH ST MARY'S, PONTEFRACT**

**FOOD SHARE PROJECT  
SUMMARY OF TRADING 2024 TO YEAR END**

	<b>INCOME</b>	<b>OUTGOINGS</b>
Balance at 1st Jan 2023	<b>£17,736.85</b>	
Grants & Donations	£9,700.00	
Pantry Subs & Misc.	£4,163.98	
Shop / Fittings		£1,097.42
Food / Materials		£14,496.39
Electricity		£934.27
Phone		£7.50
Misc. Transfers Out		£536.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>31,600.83</b>	<b>17,071.58</b>
Balance at 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2023		<b>£14529.25</b>

**DJL January 2024**





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# Accounts

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THE BENEFICE OF PONTEFRACT  
PARISH OF ST GILES with ST MARY'S  
Registered Charity No. 1135106



# ANNUAL REPORTS AND ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022





The Benefice of Pontefract  
Parish of St Giles with St Mary's  
Vicar: The Revd Canon June Lawson

I would like to commend our annual report to you this year, especially its detailing of the varied ways in which our Churches embody the vision for Christian ministry and mission in the parish of Pontefract. All we do arises from the centrality of our worship of God, who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit and his command to serve others. The core message of Jesus' teaching to his followers is summarised in these words: 'you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself.' As individual church members make their response to that specific calling, the collective mission of the church as a unified body working for good in local communities finds its fullest expression.

Between them the churches of St Giles with St Mary's have a long history of Christian devotion and service. The landscape of the parish and the nature of community and working life has changed throughout history, and the church has needed to refresh its life (and buildings!) in the light of those changes. The strong focus we have today on community engagement arises from the needs of our local community in this time and place. We are privileged to have such a beautiful, well-loved and cared for building in the heart of our town as the base from which we can fulfil our Lord's command to love God and to serve our neighbours. Sunday by Sunday we are indeed sent out from our worship with God's blessing to 'go in love and peace to serve the Lord.'

At the start of the year, Cath Fox came to us on placement as a trainee Reader and we 'leased' Jill Clapham to St Catherine's Sandal so she could fulfill the requirements of a placement in a different parish. During January, Tony Williams was also authorised as a pastoral minister. In June, Fr Sam Fletcher was priested at Wakefield cathedral and celebrated his first Mass the following day. In October, Jill, as part of the LLM/Reader licensing held at St Giles, became a fully-fledged LLM/Reader. As churches, we are fortunate to have their ministry amongst us and we look forward to their ministry growing and developing in the coming year. Within the booklet, a heartfelt thank you is recorded for all, in whatever capacity, who serve the church with dedication and devotion. The 'thank you' is also followed by an equally heartfelt plea for new people to take on roles and responsibilities as faithful servants step down.

2022 was a year of additional Civic services: the Queen's Platinum Jubilee service took place on 29<sup>th</sup> May, but was sadly followed by a service commemorating her Majesty's death on 18<sup>th</sup> September held ahead of the state funeral on 19<sup>th</sup> September. As a church we were pleased to be able to open our doors for the ten-day mourning period, warmly inviting the people of our town to come inside to light candles and sign a Book of Condolence. In addition to the usual civic services around the Remembrance period, a service was held in June remembering those who lost their lives in the Falklands conflict. A further service was held in the town hall to bless a plaque honouring members of the St John's ambulance (Pontefract) who lost their lives in World War I. In May, we were pleased to welcome to our church the Queen's Lord Lieutenants (Yorkshire region) who were visiting our town. During Heritage week in September, a member of the congregation was able to offer a guided tour explaining the history of the ceiling bosses in our church. In the Advent and Christmas period we held a range of local school carols and Christingle services, along with community carol services.

On Sunday 4th September at our patronal service, we were pleased to hold a Benefice Confirmation service at St Giles led by +Tony, it was lovely to see 10 people, spanning a variety of ages, come to baptism and confirmation after suitable preparation.

Without our church building, so much could not happen, it is a landmark of our town, a place of worship and service to our community. Throughout the year a dedicated small team of people work to maintain and refresh the fabric of our building. Particular attention this year has been paid to interior decoration, electrical repairs and the cleaning of the stained-glass windows. We were seeing 'through a glass darkly' but now the sun gleams through, enabling our beautiful windows to be seen in all their splendour.

The importance of taking care of our church building, being mindful of the quality of our welcome and never losing sight of its sacredness, amidst our numerous community activities, always puts me in mind of the prayer written by +Thomas Ken.

O God, make the door of this house  
wide enough to receive all who need human love and fellowship,  
and a heavenly Father's care;  
and narrow enough to shut out all envy, pride and hate.  
Make its threshold smooth enough to be no stumbling-block to children,  
nor to straying feet, but rugged enough to turn back the tempter's power:  
Make it a gateway to thine eternal kingdom. Amen

*(A prayer inscribed on the doors of St Stephen's Walbrook, written by Bishop Thomas Ken 1637-1711)*

It is a beautiful prayer for me to commend to you.

Thank you to all who have submitted reports. A special thank you to Vivienne Smales, our administrator, who pulls it altogether into a seamless whole.

Canon June Lawson  
March 2023

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## **ST GILES' CHURCH (within the Benefice of Pontefract)**

St Giles' Church is situated at the heart of Pontefract town centre. There has been a church on this site since at least the 12th Century. A significant re-ordering took place in 2012-2013. The ecclesiastical parish includes a wide range of housing within its bounds including new housing on a former pit site. St Giles' Church of England Academy is within the parish, along with three other primary schools, a secondary academy, and New College, Pontefract. Pontefract General Infirmary, and the Prince of Wales hospice are also within the parish, along with leisure centres, a golf club, numerous retail outlets, and significant local employers such as the Haribo factory. St Mary's community centre is a significant community provision based in Chequerfield. St Mary's church meets weekly in this local centre.

The services at St Giles range from simple forms of worship to sung services. Our mid-week services follow a simpler form of Eucharistic worship.

The 10:15am Service of the Mass on Sunday mornings is a sung service with parts of the Eucharistic liturgy sung by our choir who rehearse weekly. On Feast Days incense is used at this service. Our children's group (St Giles 3.16) meets during the service.

Choral Evensong generally takes place on the first Sunday of the month except in August. Themed evening services have been held for occasions such as Epiphanytide, the celebration of Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in July, a memorial service for her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in September, and Songs of Praise in November.

On Friday's, monthly organ recitals take place in church at 1.00pm. Our organ is one of the finest in the north of England.

St Giles' plays an active role in supporting local charities and organisations: several musical concerts take place in the church throughout the year.

No. 6, the leased shop on Chequerfield, has increased its profile providing a weekly pantry club for local residents to opt into and much needed food provision for families needing help in school holidays.

Every Wednesday between 12.30-1.30pm 'Lunch with Us' has provided food for the homeless and people with little resources.

There is also a church café serving coffee/teas and cakes, which is open on Wednesdays and Saturdays to coincide with the town's market days.

We have an active Mothers' Union, and a thriving toddler group (Tiddlywinks) which meets every Thursday morning.

The St Giles' Centre has several meeting rooms which are used by local groups as a venue for their activities. Open church, run by volunteers, enables the church building to be open throughout the week. This allows people to come in for quiet reflection, to light candles for loved ones and to pray. In the latter part of the year, we have offered a warm space and provided refreshments under the 'Warm Spaces' umbrella. In November, the Pontefract Foodbank started to operate out of the St Giles Centre enabling the public to collect food and get help from Citizen's advice.

St Mary's is a small congregation of around 9 people who meet weekly in the St Mary's Community Centre. Services are Eucharistic, Common Worship Morning Prayer and occasional family services themed as appropriate.

Our bell ringers ring on Sundays before worship and practice on Mondays.

These activities which indicate 'public benefit' are described in more detail in this report.

## **AIMS AND PURPOSES**

St Giles' with St Mary's Parochial Church Council (PCC) in the Benefice of Pontefract, has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend Canon June Lawson, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish of St Giles, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of St Giles' church, whereas St Mary's congregation meets in a building licensed for worship run by St Mary's Community Project.

## **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES.**

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our churches and become part of our worshipping community at St Giles and at St Mary's. Broadly our vision is to be an open, welcoming, and inclusive church for all who visit and live within the parish of Pontefract.

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion by:

- offering the opportunity for individuals and families to come together for public worship, prayer, and teaching as part of our Sunday, midweek services, and evening worship
- Continuing the teaching of Christianity through sermons, and seasonal learning events including confirmation classes.
- Offering 'Open Church' throughout the week which offers reflective and prayerful space for those who need a quiet environment to cope with life's challenges.
- Providing pastoral care through the occasional offices such as baptisms, funerals, and occasional weddings, as well as visiting the bereaved, those who are ill and taking the sacrament to them.
- Supporting our church school through governance, visiting church and taking collective worship, also supporting other local schools through occasional assemblies and visits to the church. Pastoral needs are also met through the provision of food parcels to designated families in school holidays.
- Offering the opportunity to explore matters of faith to children who join in with our Junior church provision.
- Offering through twice weekly coffee mornings, a weekly toddler group, monthly Mother's Union, Whist Group, and our weekly Lunch with Us, the space for people to come together for fellowship and friendship.
- Providing through 'Lunch with Us,' and the provision of perishable goods made available from local shops, the opportunity to eat without cost or make a small donation.

- Providing the community, through rooms made available as part of the St Giles' Centre, access to citizen's advice, a weekly chair exercise group, and a variety of meetings related to health and wellbeing.
- Supporting mission partnerships with other local churches as well as working with other civic and community organisations.
- Providing monthly organ concerts and being a venue for a variety of musical concerts that draw in the local community, such as The Pontefract Choral society concerts.
- Representation on the St Mary's Community Project Management Committee which is a not-for-profit organisation offering a range of activities including adult education courses, and community activities.
- Supporting other charities in the UK and overseas through our mission giving (including a hardship fund) and the offering of prime town centre outside space for charities to use.
- Acknowledging our responsibilities to pay for ministry within our own parish and contributing to ministry provision within the wider diocesan church family by making parish share payments as fully as we are able.
- Maintaining the fabric of the Church of St. Giles to a high standard in order to provide a building that we can be proud of as a centre of worship and community mission in our town.

### **In 2022, we**

- Offered regular worship with at least 3, usually 4 regular services per week
- Authorised and licensed a pastoral and lay minister for work in the parish
- Continued to be a training parish offering a variety of ministry opportunities for our curate and for a trainee lay minister on placement with us
- Offered a new seasonal service for families on the Chequerfield estate
- Provided time and space for quiet contemplation and lighting of candles through the church being open set times every day in the week
- Provided an open space in the church for members of the community to mark her Majesty's Queen Elizabeth's passing through lighting of candles and opportunity to write their thoughts in a memorial book
- Continued pastoral work including visiting the long term sick
- Conducting religious services in church and at the crematorium for the bereaved
- Offered services of baptism for families seeking to mark a key life event
- Offered wedding services and services of blessing after a civic ceremony for couples marking a key life event
- Provided a service on All Souls Day for the community to remember the departed, also carol services before Christmas for the local community and a family orientated crib service
- Held services for 4 local schools around Christmas, engaged in school assemblies throughout the year and provided learning opportunities for schools to visit church as part of their curriculum activities
- Supported our church school and St Mary's Community Centre through membership of governing bodies

- Offered and supported at least 5 civic services throughout the year and participated in a St John's ambulance plaque dedication service at the town hall along with services at the war memorial
- Held some social events, including a beetle drive, fashion show and harvest supper
- Offered monthly organ recitals and a silent film show
- Hosted bell ringer teams from other churches to ring in our tower, visiting organists to play our fantastic organ, and the Yorkshire Lord Lieutenants visiting our town of Pontefract
- Provided a venue for musical concerts provided by local singing groups such as The Pontefract Choral society and the Fairburn Singers
- Provided refreshments after worship for the congregation, enabling fellowship and friendship
- Provided a coffee morning for the community twice a week
- Continued to develop links with local community groups, such as the Civic Society, through active participation in Heritage week (bell tower tours and information sessions informing visitors about the ceiling bosses) and events around the Queen's Jubilee
- Worked with Wakefield Council to illuminate the church windows as part of Light Up Pontefract
- Contributed to ecumenical work in the town through active participation in CTIP
- Provided community space within the St Giles Centre, including a weekly Citizen's Advice session, weekly chair exercise and facilitating the development of links with local community groups
- Supported the provision of free English language classes to Ukrainians resident in our town and district
- Had success in writing bids to gain grants that have enabled valuable community work to continue and to specifically enable the development of a new service for families during 2023
- Contributed to providing opportunities for people to be involved with community voluntary activities through practical care of the building, administration, bell ringing, joining a choir, playing whist, staffing open church, helping with Lunch with Us and Tiddlywinks, hosting the local Foodbank, and volunteering as drivers as part of school holiday meals provision
- Held fundraising activities for local charities and church funds
- Supported designated charities in the UK and overseas through mission giving and collections for crisis situations
- Complied with statutory risk assessment through reviewing our Health and Safety policies, attending to the diocesan safeguarding dashboard policy requirements regarding child and vulnerable adult protection
- Supported the work of the diocese through membership of clergy chapter, deanery synod, diocesan synod and the work of our cathedrals through the vicar's membership of the college of canons.

Our achievements for 2022 are further detailed through the collection of reports presented as part of this booklet.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2017) and a registered charity number 1135106. In June 2019, we became part of the newly created Benefice of Pontefract which includes the parish of All Saints, Pontefract along with our own parish of St Giles with St Mary's.

Our correspondence address is: Parish Office, St Giles Church, Market Place,  
Pontefract, WF8 1AT  
Tel: 01977 790448  
Email: [stgileschurchpontefract@gmail.com](mailto:stgileschurchpontefract@gmail.com)

Bank: Virgin Money, 81 Carlton Street, Castleford, WF10 1BW

Insurance Provider: Ecclesiastical Insurance Group, Beaufort House, Brunswick Rd, Gloucester,  
GL1 1JZ

Architect: Mr David Barker, Associate Director based at Norwich Union House, High St,  
Huddersfield, HD1 2LR

Independent Examiner: Mr John Ransome, John Ransome Accountancy Services Ltd, 11  
Northleigh, East Hardwick, Pontefract, WF8 3DR

## **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

In June 2019, the union of the Benefice of All Saints' Pontefract and the Benefice of St Giles, Pontefract, became a legal entity. The constituent parishes remain distinct. Canon June Lawson was appointed as the first incumbent of the new Benefice of Pontefract.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules 2017. At St Giles' with St Mary's, the *ex-officio* membership of the PCC consists of the Incumbent (Vicar), other clergy licensed to the benefice, four churchwardens (elected at the Annual Meeting of parishioners), and the 12 members of the laity elected by those members of the congregations who are on the electoral roll of the church. All those who attend our services/members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC when vacancies occur.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. The Standing Committee is required under Church Representation Rules. It meets approximately 8 times a year to transact the business of the PCC between its full meetings including meeting prior to PCC's to set the agenda for the meeting. It also acts as the personnel committee of the PCC.

The PCC enable people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer, learning opportunities and opportunities to grow in discipleship through the whole Benefice and through signposting to diocesan resources
- Enabling pastoral care to those who live in the parish
- Community engagement

- Missionary support
- Caring for a grade 2 listed building, preserving the fabric for future generations, and developing our building as an asset for both the church and the wider community.
- Framing an annual budget to support this work
- Ensuring risk assessments regarding Financial Risk, Health and Safety, and Safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults are conducted regularly as part of its regular agenda

During 2022, the full PCC met 6 times with an average attendance of 68.7%.

The PCC has committees with Terms of Reference which deal with a particular aspect of parish life. These committees include the Standing Committee, the St Giles' Centre Management committee, the Fabric, Health and Safety committee, St Mary's Community committee, and the Missions Committee. All are responsible to the PCC and report back to it regularly with minutes of their decisions being received by the full PCC and discussed, as necessary.

The following people served as PCC members for all or part of the year 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022-31<sup>st</sup> December 2022:

Vicar and Chair (ex officio)	*The Revd Canon June Lawson
Vice Chair	*Barbara Sessford
Churchwardens (ex officio)	*Bruce Dagleish *Peter Lavine *Pam Mercer *Barbara Sessford
Deanery Synod Representatives (ex officio)	Maureen Gummerson Tony Williams Ruth Carter (not attending PCC meetings)
PCC Members	Sonia Atkin (reappointed for 3 years from 03.04.2022) David Belford (reappointed for 3 years from 03.04.2022) Jill Clapham Lynne Davis Karen Glynn (appointed for 1 year 03.04.2022) Janet Robinson (RIP 28.01.2022) Ulric Murray Joan Taylor (reappointed for 3 years from 03.04.2022) Delia Perritt (resigned 22.11.2022) Frank Ward (St Mary's Pro-warden)
Treasurer	*David Leigh
Clergy (ex officio)	Fr Rod Walker, Associate SSM (Priest) Fr Michael Taylor, PTO (Priest) Fr Mark Watkins, Associate stipendiary priest Fr Sam Fletcher, stipendiary curate

\*indicates member of Standing Committee

The following appointments were made by the Parochial Church Council during the year 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022:

Sides-people	Linda Atkins John Barber Sandra Barker Bill Bradley Barbara Chessman Janet Colvill Margaret Coverdale	Margaret Hopwood Ian Knox Barbara Lavine Maureen Milnes Peter Spurr Geoff Walsh Ian Wood
PCC Secretary / Church Administrator	Vivienne Smales	
Treasurer	*David Leigh	
Health and Safety Officer	Peter Lavine	
Safeguarding Officer	Karen MacDonald	
Electoral Roll Officer	Bevil Edwards	
Organist and Director of Music	James MacDonald	
Disability Officer	Barbara Sessford	
St Mary's Community Meeting Chair	Fr Michael Taylor	

## **VOLUNTEERS and Staff**

The mission of the church is also pursued through a wide range of volunteer help as detailed below.

In addition to thanking the assistant clergy, Fr Sam Fletcher, Fr Rod Walker and Fr Michael Taylor, along with our newly authorised lay pastoral minister, Tony Williams and lay Minister (Reader) Jill Clapham, I would like to thank all the volunteers who work in so many varied ways and with such generosity to make our church a busy and vibrant community.

Volunteers offer ministry in our regular services, as committed members of our wonderful choir, led by our Musical Director and Organist, James Macdonald. Michael Phipps, our organ curator, is always willing to offer his time and expertise when the St Giles' organ needs attention. Our dedicated bell ringers have summoned us to worship, led by the tower captain, Adrian Garner and assisted by Karen Glynn.

Weekly and mid-week services could not happen without the team who serve as lectors, intercessors, and servers; as Eucharistic ministers, sides-people, operators of the sound system, printers of service booklets and arrangers of such beautiful flowers throughout the year. Another

lovely team is at work in our Junior church, in the Thursday Tiddlywinks and as baptism welcomers, co-ordinated by Mary Murray.

Administration happens in the parish through our much-appreciated paid part-time administrator, Vivienne Smales, and through two dedicated volunteers, Stuart Lonsdale, and Jonathan Harris. Both give very generously of their time week by week attending to service booklets and other printing tasks including magazines for other churches. Jonathan Harris has ensured our presence on social media through our Facebook pages, twitter account and the national online platform 'a church near you.'

A large amount of work administering lettings goes on behind the scenes in the St Giles' Centre and so grateful thanks must go to Bill Bradley for his commitment to this.

The church members and wider community are served by numerous volunteers working as part of 'Lunch with Us' (a much-appreciated meal provision in the community), by those catering and serving refreshments as part of the regular coffee mornings, and as individuals staffing the Open Church rota, enabling the church to be open for the public is an important gift of quiet space for our town.

In the latter part of the year a member of the congregation began a monthly 'Men's Breakfast' seeking to provide fellowship and friendship over a mug of tea and a bacon sandwich.

The caretaker, Ian Wood, a paid staff member, continues to keep our church clean and ensure those letting our rooms are looked after. A small team of volunteers, led by Peter Lavine, also look after the fabric and health safety of the church building.

Many members of St Giles serve on committees, not least the PCC and the St Giles' Centre committee, but also as members of Deanery and Diocesan Synods, as part of school governance and as trustees of the St Mary's Community Project. Their role is key to parish and diocesan governance.

Our Mission's Committee organise events to raise funds for our church supported charities. Other local and national charities are supported by individuals raising funds. Individuals organise whist drives, concerts and recitals, organise raffles (including guess the weight of the cake), host an annual fashion show, or run bric a brac stalls to help church and charity funds. A spin off of these events is to provide fellowship for those who take part.

A big thank you goes to our churchwardens: Bruce Dalglish, Peter Lavine, Pam Mercer, and Barbara Sessford, along with their weekly teams, who, always work with such faithfulness and dedication. Frank Ward, St Mary's pro warden, does a wonderful job to ensure that the small community of St Mary's can meet for worship week by week.

David Leigh, church treasurer for so many years, has overseen and administered the church's accounts and its finances. A role that takes a lot of time counting and banking money, paying invoices, populating spreadsheets, and then helping others to make sense of the figures. Sorting out utilities companies has been a feature of this year!

I hope no team has been missed if you have – many apologies. It makes your gift of time no less valuable to our ministry and mission.

Faithful volunteers over many years do increasingly come to me signalling that they would like to step down and it important that people are able to do so. However, we really do need a willingness from others to take on roles and responsibilities in the life of the church. We are a Christian community which flourishes best when the tasks are shared. Without that sense of 'passing on the baton' to others who are willing to take a new role on, our ministry and mission in Pontefract will cease to thrive and our doors will slowly close. Your church needs you! Our Lord needs you to be his servants in order that his church may fulfill what he calls us to be and do.

Canon June Lawson

## **STATUTORY REPORTS (Achievements and Performance)**

### **ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT**

Notice of revision of the electoral roll was given on 30 January 2023 and the revision was concluded on 4 March 2023. One application for inclusion on the roll was received and the name and address of the applicant has been entered accordingly.

The details of one member who has moved away and two members who have died have been removed from the roll.

The number of members recorded on the roll at today's date is 141.

Bevil Edwards  
Electoral Roll Officer  
Date: 5 March 2023

### **REPORT ON THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

The PCC welcomed some new members in 2022 and there followed another busy year for the PCC as a whole and for the various groups which report to the PCC.

Some of the significant areas that the PCC has considered are:

- Heritage week in September
- Risk Assessments on all areas of church life
- The church's budget, parish giving and fundraising
- Works to be undertaken on the fabric of the church including cleaning and replacing of bulbs in the main lights of the church, installation of rain channels on the North Aisle roof to prevent rain damage and internal decorations
- Staffing
- Parish Share
- Withdrawal of COVID measures
- Revising of Term of Reference for committees and church policies
- Receiving of committee reports inc community provision
- Approval of a Reserves Policy
- Visit by the Lord Lieutenant's Office
- Work of the St Giles Foodshare and Pantry club
- Safeguarding dashboard updates, especially related to new role descriptions for leaders and members of teams
- The Queen's Platinum Jubilee – Service of Thanksgiving
- The Queen's Book of Condolence and Commemoration Service
- Harvest Supper

- Remembrance events
- Introduction of Messy Church at St Mary's supported by a grant application to the Bishop's Development Fund
- Purchase of new projector and mobile stand from funds received from the BDF
- Installation of an additional CCTV camera
- Fees updates
- Warm Space initiative
- Digital Giving Device
- Grant applications including ASDA Foundation to help with Warm Space initiative and the National Lottery to help with letting costs for Citizen's Advice
- Preliminary investigations into the installation of solar panels
- Future inclusion of The parish of Carleton and East Hardwick into the benefice

## **SAFEGUARDING**

The church complies with Diocesan Safeguarding Policies and Practices, with regular updating of the Diocesan Safeguarding Dashboard. This guides the work of the PCC in fulfilling its statutory obligations.

All members of St Giles' who are, due to the nature of their post (voluntary or otherwise) are currently in receipt of an enhanced DBS check and this information is confidentially stored with the parish administrator. Post holders and volunteers have all received the necessary clearance to fulfil their roles. In line with new guidance from the Diocese, all DBS checks are to be renewed every 3 years rather than 5 and all must be updated by January 2024.

The PCC continues to commit to carrying out the Church of England policy for Safeguarding; it also reaffirms that everyone is responsible for safeguarding children and vulnerable adults irrespective of their role within the church community, with any concerns being reported to the Safeguarding Officer, Clergy or a member of the PCC.

Churchwardens and PCC members are in the process of completing the necessary training stages in line with the diocesan policies, as are the leaders of church groups.

Since the last APCM report there have been no Safeguarding issues within Saint Giles', however, the relevant personnel have been made aware of local and regional concerns as a precaution, although this does not pose any risk to children or vulnerable adults in church. A comprehensive list of DBS checks remains updated in line with national protocols.

Karen MacDonald  
Parish Safeguarding Officer

## **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

Please refer to the Financial statements at the end of this booklet.

## **FINANCIAL RESERVES POLICY**

A Financial Reserves Policy is annually agreed by the PCC.

“Under normal conditions the PCC within has adopted a policy to maintain a balance of unrestricted funds which equates to circa six months of the unrestricted funds normal annual expenditure. Certain of these funds are from time to time earmarked for designated purposes.”

## **REPORT ON THE FABRIC, HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE 2022**

Condition of the fabric

Following the complete re-roofing of the south nave roof in 2021, improvements have now been made to the north aisle roof. These improvements were in response to a couple of incidents that resulted in rainwater entering into the church during torrential downpours. It was agreed with the PCC to consult with our church architect and the company that had given us good service re-roofing the south nave. The outcome of the consultation resulted in zinc rain channels being fitted to carry rain water from the main nave roof across the north aisle roof to lessen the amount of water on the lower roof. It is hoped that this will remedy the problem of extreme downpours in the future.

Other than the above, the fabric of the church is in a good state.

We have continued to redecorate the inside spaces of the church, painting various rooms on the first floor, the south and north aisles and the café area.

We have taken the secondary glazing out of the stained glass windows in the north and south aisles and cleaned those units. While the units were out we took the opportunity to clean the stained glass.

Over a period of three months the main church lights have been taken down to carry out essential maintenance of them. The bulbs were replaced along with the emergency lighting batteries. These batteries allow the lights to function should the power fail. We have reduced the number of light bulbs to mitigate the rising cost of electricity.

All the mandatory test and examinations that are required to enable the church to operate legally and safely have been completed. The five yearly fixed electrical installation inspection will be due this coming year. Additionally, the five yearly quinquennial inspection by our architect is also due this year and the necessary arrangements have been made to allow for this to happen.

The annual, planned schedule of maintenance has been completed by our regular maintenance team who continue to conscientiously go about their duties on our behalf and long may that continue.

Looking to the future we are hoping to embark this year (2023) on installing solar panels on the south aisle roof. This will enable us to further reduce our carbon footprint on the environment and reduce the burden of rising energy costs. We will be seeking the relevant permissions and funding to enable this essential project to go forward. If you have any questions on this project or

feel you would like to help with a financial contribution please speak with myself, Canon June or David Leigh.

Peter Lavine on behalf of the Fabric, Health and Safety Committee.

## **REPORT ON THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE DEANERY SYNOD**

Deanery Synod met on three occasions during the year. The first meeting was held 24<sup>th</sup> February 2022 in St Giles Pontefract. Rev. Margaret Gallagher, Area Dean, opened the meeting with prayers and welcomed Sarah Hobbs who is an advocate of Living in Love and Faith. She gave an informative presentation on this project Synod then held small group discussions on the six guiding principles of LLF which set out to inspire people to think more deeply about what it means to be human and live in love and faith with each other. In March following on from this a Lenten study course hosted by Rev Gemma Fleury and Rev Sam Fletcher was held St Mary's South Elmsall.

St Martin Womersley was the next venue for Synod on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2022 Jemima Parker, Diocesan Environment Officer, gave a presentation on how churches can become net carbon zero by 2030. She offered advice and resource links to enable churches to achieve their goals

Jo Byrne Deanery Secretary expressed a wish to step down as she is to undertake training for ordination. To date no replacement has been found and she is continuing in this role.

On 20<sup>th</sup> October 2022 Synod met at All Saints Featherstone. The meeting was chaired by Tony Williams who welcomed Rev Ruth Harris, Wakefield Episcopal Area Co-Ordinator for Prayer and Spirituality. She spoke about tools and ideas to assist us on our spiritual journey. Various forms of prayer were shared.

Bishop Tony has invited all three Deanery Synods in the Wakefield Episcopal Area to a special meeting on 21st February 2023 in Wakefield Cathedral.

A Quiet Day will be held later in 2023 at Archbishop Holgate's Hospital Hemsworth - Details to follow.

Maureen Gummerson

## **NON-STATUTORY REPORTS (Achievements and Performance)**

### **BAPTISM MINISTRY**

After the restrictions during the Covid pandemic it has been heartening in 2022 to see an increase in the number of those seeking baptism either for themselves or for their children. The number of families at any one service has continued to be limited to two in order to offer as personal a ministry as possible. It also has to be remembered that this is an occasion when many of those attending the baptism may have little, or even no, real understanding of the significance of the service and care is taken by the presiding priest to explain in an informal way what baptism means. Guests have continued to be limited to 50 per family.

The preparation meetings are held in church and have been led by Canon June or Father Sam. The Baptism Welcomer is also present; this is an opportunity to get to know the family so that they can become acquainted with a member of the church family and so are able to meet with someone they know on the day itself.

There have been 31 baptisms in 2022. Of these, 2 were of adults, 19 were of children under the age of one year, 9 were between 1 and 4 years and one child was 5 years old.

Many thanks to our team of nine Baptism Welcomers. Their commitment and willingness to help in this ministry are greatly appreciated. Thanks also to Vivienne who undertakes the administration so very efficiently and cheerfully.

Should anyone in the congregation wish to know more about the role of Baptism Welcomers, please feel able to speak with myself, the clergy or one of the team.

Mary Murray

### **BELL RINGING**

The belfry goes from strength to strength. We regularly have seven ringers for Sunday service ringing and have up to 10 bells ringing on a Monday night practice. Two of the band were recently awarded their Association of Ringing Teachers Level 1 certificate in bell control. Several people have expressed an interest in learning to ring tower bells and I am giving lessons in the evenings and on weekends to fit around their other commitments. Hopefully it will not be long before we can ring all 10 bells for Sunday morning service.

We have welcomed a number of visiting bands into the tower since the COVID lockdown has been lifted including the Yorkshire Association of Change Ringers, the Yorkshire Tykes and hosted an evening practice for the ringers from Doncaster. The Yorkshire Tykes are a group of young people who are all learning the joys of ringing together and are building an exceptional reputation for having fun and being inclusive. The hope is that in the coming year we can share with more people the bells we are fortunate to have in the tower of St Giles.

On the maintenance front we are getting close to needing a new set of ropes. The current ones have lasted around 10 years and will need to be replaced soon as they are starting to fray and a couple have already had pieces cut out of them and been spliced back together.

Some of you may have noticed that the clock is no longer chiming the quarter hours or counting out the hour. This is because the mechanism that works the chimes needs to be repaired. We will endeavour to arrange for this repair to be done in the coming months.

Your support for the ancient art of bell ringing is always appreciated and should anyone wish to learn, please come along one Monday evening at 7:30pm or contact me (07790 956257).

Adrian Garner  
Tower Captain

## **FLOWER TEAM**

The Flower Fairies are a small but committed enthusiastic band of flower arrangers. It is a privilege to work with such a beautiful part of God's creation.

Whilst 2022 has seen a return to regular arrangements, it has not been without challenges. We are grateful to all the people who sponsor the flowers and hope you will continue to do so.

If you like to support our efforts any contribution would be most welcome.

Thank you

The Flower Team

## **JUNIOR CHURCH – ST GILES' 3:16**

Our name changed after lockdown to St Giles 3:16, to encourage our young people to continue to learn with us after the age of 11 years when they traditionally left Junior School for Secondary education. It was also chosen because of the verse in St John's Gospel 'God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believed in him may not die but have eternal life'.

We do struggle to encourage more children and young people to join us and I know this is a problem that as a church we are trying to address, through Messy Church and church visits by local schools. Despite this the young people we do see are having fun and learning about our faith.

We teach many of our lessons through Godly Play lessons. This works well for us as we have a wide age range from five to thirteen and relies on not only telling Bible stories through the use of the little figures we have made but also asks our children to wonder? Recently we wondered what it would be like for people who were about to meet the most important person in the world. They wondered who that would be because the most important person to one person might not be the most important person to another! So, a discussion followed. We also use arts and crafts to develop understanding. We always start with our own prayer written by children a few years ago that involve actions to accompany our prayer and a lighted candle (battery operated Peter!).

During the last year we have been looking at the role of the prophets, what a prophet is and why they are so important. They have included Adam, Noah, Moses, Joshua, David and Daniel. We are

now exploring the work of Jesus the Messiah through his teaching ministry, his healing ministry and the nature and healing miracles. We try to link our teaching programme to Christian festivals in the Liturgical year.

Lynne, Stephanie and Jane.

## **LUNCH WITH US REPORT**

Lunch with Us continues to offer warm food and drinks every Wednesday from 12.30 till 14.00. It has now been seven and a half years since the project started.

The customers are varied, some coming regularly and some less frequently.

We have received a grant in the last year and some generous donations from individuals. Greggs continue to donate left over good for which we are very grateful.

There is an amazing team of volunteers from St Giles, St Joseph's Church and St Stephen's East Hardwick and I would like to thank everyone for their continued support.

During 2022 we exceeded our 2021 figure of 2813 serving 3768 meals.

The venture had an income of £1478.96 with expenditure of £1310.23 and showed a small profit of £168.73.

Barbara Sessford  
Lunch with Us Coordinator

## **MESSY CHURCH**

After seasonal trial events throughout 2022, our first official Messy Church at St Mary's was held in January 2023, and is now a monthly event. Messy Church takes place on the third Sunday of every month, at 4pm. Each service includes craft activities, music, storytelling from the bible, prayers, a Christian message, and a free meal. It is aimed at people of all ages, and intends to be accessible to children and families. We have a team of excellent volunteers with a variety of skills, to whom we are very grateful. We have a planning meeting for each service, which involves making necessary plans and preparations, as well as praying for Messy Church. It is broadly publicised, including through flyering in Chequerfield, at St Giles' school, to our Tiddlywinks group, and to baptism families. Our first two events have been well attended, and very positively received; 23 adults and 8 children attended our February Messy Church, and we hope that many in this group will become consistent members of a growing Messy Church community. We have received grant funding from the Bishop's Development Fund, which will fund Messy Church activities for at least 12 months.

Fr Sam Fletcher

## **THE MISSIONS COMMITTEE REPORT**

Once again, our main fundraising activity was the monthly Saturday morning coffee.

Fundraising activities other than coffees included a beetle drive at February half-term, a chocolate tombola at Easter and a cake stall in June. To boost our funds Anne Healy again knitted Christmas pudding table decorations and also small wooden reindeer were assembled to be sold in the run-up to Christmas.

We supported the following organisations:

### **CMS**

We helped fund Andrew and Andrea Young, who work on behalf of the CMS, providing pastoral care to United Mission in Nepal.

### **The Leprosy Mission**

TLM offers rehabilitation, education, vocational training, small business loans, housing and fresh water and sanitation to tens of thousands of leprosy sufferers each year. We sent a contribution to help with this valuable work.

The Leprosy Mission have stopped recycling stamps so after many years we are no longer collecting, trimming and sorting them for church.

### **Church Army**

We sent a donation towards their work taking place in very deprived areas of the UK.

### **Mara**

Majengo Mapya is our link parish near Musoma on Lake Victoria and we sent a contribution to assist with the continuing work being done there.

### **The Mission to Seafarers**

They work worldwide to support seafarers, giving specialist help in a crisis and we are happy to help in a small way to their on-going work.

The Missions Committee thanks our congregation for their continuing support.

Edie Barber  
Treasurer and Secretary

### **Other Charitable Giving**

The church holds special collections in response to Christian Aid requests for financial help so that they can respond to international disasters.

Collections are held for the Church of England's Children's Society as part of any Christingle services held in the churches.

Edie Barber

## **MOTHERS' UNION**

We have 25 members and 1 indoor member.

2022 was a very busy year, we had some interesting speakers, a lovely day out at Beverley and Burnham Gardens, Pocklington, and enjoyed an afternoon tea in July.

We did well with fundraising, which we shared between AFIA (Away from it all Holidays) and World Wide projects....

We ended the year with our Advent Service and a lovely Christmas Lunch.

Marjorie Laidlaw

## **MUSIC REPORT**

The choir continues to enhance worship at St Giles'. The work of the choristers is much appreciated as is the support from visiting organists. It was a pleasure to have Paul Bowen return to support our service of IX lessons and carols, which was musically outstanding. Tom Moore, who has a long association with St Giles' choir is now enjoying his new post in Northampton and we wish him, Heidi and the children all the best as they settle there. I must record my thanks to Michael Phipps who continues to generously support the maintenance of the organ, which is, arguably, one of the finest in the North of England.

The new mass setting by Peter Nardone is now regularly part of the repertoire which allows more congregational involvement. It's a tuneful and uplifting setting so please do join in with much enthusiasm. Several new hymns have been introduced and I do, as always, think it is important to sing the variety of tunes available: the Church (in the wider sense) has acquired some interesting habits of expecting certain tunes for certain hymns because « that's what we've always done ». I'm quite sure the music of Léonin and Perotin would still exist if we didn't embrace the less familiar. Like many aspects of life, things evolve and adapt: traditions develop.

The Friday recital series continues to attract a decent number of enthusiasts, and the recitalists are always grateful for the warm Ponte welcome they receive! To those of you who support it: thank you. It really is an important part of our musical heritage which, midst the technologically dependant world in which we now live, allows for a celebration of tradition and an opportunity to enjoy exceptional music.

James MacDonald  
Organist and Director of Music

## **OPEN CHURCH**

We have been able to keep the church open for a period of time each day. This means that people can light a candle, pray or seek some quiet time. As well as this an extra 'Warm space' session has been added on Thursday afternoon.

There is a great team of volunteers who help this to happen, but we would be grateful to welcome any others who would like to come along and help. If you are unable to commit every week please consider being on a reserve list. If you are interested, please see Barbara Sessford.

Barbara Sessford

## **PARISH MAGAZINE**

The magazine had a facelift this year, introducing colour into the front and back pages. After some discussion the price was increased to £1 per copy, there being 10 issues during the course of the year, with an extra to mark the late Queen's Jubilee.

I would like to thank those who regularly contribute to the magazine - you know who you are - and would like to invite everyone else to put pen to paper, or fingers to keyboard, to add your particular area of interest or concern, a memorable experience, a poem, a funny story, a photograph, a sketch, your life story in several chapters... anything to help to swell the pages.

Feedback about any aspect of the magazine would be welcome. Perhaps you might start by writing a letter to the editor? Honest opinions are always welcome, but some positive thoughts would help to make the task of compiling the magazine much more rewarding!

Bruce Dalglish

## **PASTORAL CARE**

Pastoral Care continues to be an important part of our churches' ministry. We have a core pastoral care team consisting of Canon June, Fr Sam, our Licensed Lay Minister Jill Clapham and our Lay Pastoral Minister Tony Williams. This group generally meets on a monthly basis in order to co-ordinate pastoral care within the parish.

We currently take Home Communion on a monthly basis to 7 regular home communicants, as well as those who receive home communion on a temporary or one-off basis. This is in addition to the pastoral visiting by our clergy, which we arrange as the need arises. We also make phone calls to check in on the wellbeing of particular church members, especially those who our records show we haven't seen at church for a while. We record the dates of our pastoral visits, phone calls, and home communions, which are put into a database that can be accessed by the pastoral team, so as to keep track of who has been visited. We support people facing a wide variety of difficulties, including grief, isolation and ill health. When possible, we visit members in hospital and link patients with the hospital/hospice chaplaincy departments. There is a weekly prayer list for the sick and those in difficulty. Our clergy also offer pastoral care to those outside of our congregation – for example, as part of our funeral ministry.

As well as the pastoral ministry provided by our core pastoral team, a major element of our pastoral care as a church comes through the fellowship and friendships formed between members of our congregation, providing care and support to one another through good times and bad. Our pastoral team sometimes plays a role in fostering these connections – for example, Tony has established a Men's Fellowship Breakfast, which first met in October 2022.

Care and support of various kinds is also offered from church members to those outside the church, for example through Lunch With Us and the Food Share at No. 6.

Our clergy conducted 39 funerals this year in church and at the crematorium.

In summary, through our pastoral ministry, we continue to provide important spiritual and emotional support to our congregations and the wider community.

Fr Sam Fletcher

## **SERVING TEAM REPORT**

I would like to say a big thank you to everyone from the choir and congregation who volunteer their time and services at the altar on Sundays and at other times when needed. Your continual support as readers, eucharistic ministers, intercessors, acolytes and crucifer is very much appreciated.

Members of the congregation are always encouraged to volunteer and especially our younger members. Daisy Jowett has been amazing in her continued faithfulness as acolyte.

Sadly, this year a long-standing member of the serving team has needed to step down from regular help, we owe Warwick Sumpter a huge thank you for all his dedicated service over many years.

We have been delighted to welcome Robert Jubb and Rejoice Jirira onto the serving team.

Volunteers don't necessarily have the time, but they always have a heart. So, thank you again for helping to make our Church's Sunday worship run smoothly and efficiently.

Tony Williams

## **ST GILES' MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

The Covid-19 restrictions imposed during 2020/21 were substantially reduced at the beginning of 2022 and procedures for use of the Centre thereafter returned to pre-Covid requirements. The pandemic had severely affected the St Giles Centre in terms of room bookings, user numbers and income during the previous 2 years requiring the committee to review its Strategy Map with the main focus for 2022 being to increase both usage and the promotion of the Centre. This would be achieved by increased advertising of the Centre's facilities by numerous means including social media sites, Centre website, Google business and local media outlets.

At the beginning of the year the committee also reviewed the room hire rates and agreed an increase of 4% (the first overall increase since the Centre was established in 2013) which would come into effect on 1 April 2022. This figure was well below the rate of inflation at that time and was based on impending increases in energy costs and the need to generate additional income following the considerable loss of income over the last 2 years.

It was also agreed to jointly plan ahead with Citizens Advice to seek further funding to cover its room hire costs after existing grants ended in December 2022. A successful bid to the National Lottery Community Fund (Awards for All) was subsequently made which will meet their room hire costs for the 12-months January – December 2023. Further joint applications will be made to ensure Citizens Advice continue to provide a town centre service beyond 2023.

The use of the Centre by community groups and organisations has slowly increased throughout 2022 but in financial terms is well below that of pre-Covid levels –

- The weekly Chair Exercise classes continue to popular.
- The fortnightly Whist Drives continued throughout the year but ended in November having run very successfully since March 2014. Many thanks Kath for your support.
- SWYP NHS Trust Mindfulness+ Group (Baghill House) completed a weekly 9 sessions course in January.
- SWYP NHS Trust Seeking Safety Group completed its weekly course (Sept 21–May 22)
- Pontefract Choral Society held concerts in March, June and December.
- Pontefract Readers Group ended its monthly meetings in July due to low numbers.
- Wakefield Youth Work Team commenced its weekly sessions in January but these stopped at the end of March due to low numbers.
- Artzone Art Café recommenced its activities in March but struggled to maintain numbers and eventually ended its booking in May.
- WEA Art & Craft for Wellbeing course – a successful and well attended course ran for 11 weeks April – July. A subsequent Aromatherapy course was cancelled due to lack of numbers.
- Wakefield Recovery and Wellbeing College courses -
  - Caring for Me and You - 6 weekly sessions ending in May.
  - Freedom from Fibromyalgia - 3 weekly sessions commenced in September.
  - Pastel Drawing held in October.
  - Understanding Personality Disorder held in November.
  - Christmas Gonks – held in November.
  - Christmas Rag Wreath Workshop held in November.
- Wakefield Health Alliance Primary Care Networks (Conexus Healthcare) commenced its on-going monthly Peer Group sessions in April and its on-going monthly Wellbeing Café sessions in May.
- The Centre offered free use for an English Conversations course for Ukrainians which was held weekly throughout June and July.
- Pontefract Foodbank food collection and advisory service commenced in October and will run weekly for 12 months.
- The Fairburn Singers concert was held on 17 November.

The income from room hire in 2022 amounted to £4318.00 compared to £4463 in 2021 and was 66% down on 2019 (pre-Covid).

The weekly Lunch with Us meals service continued to provide a limited takeaway service during the first 3 months of the year, however, from April onwards it was possible to provide a full meals service once again within the café area. A weekly average of 72.5 meals to 35 people served by 7.8 volunteers (2021 figures: 54 meals/23 people/7.5 volunteers).

In November a successful application was made to the Asda Foundation for funding to cover energy and food costs in order to create a Warm Space within the café area on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons over the 3-month period December to February 2023.

The Centre Committee continues to oversee the Holiday Food Share and Food Pantry projects which are based at No.6 The Circle in Chequerfield.

Throughout the year the Centre Management Committee has given particular attention to the financial difficulties caused by increased energy costs and reduced income. It is recognised that the Centre is of great benefit to the church and does provide an income as well as contributing to the mission of the church to serve the community, however, its current financial contributions to the PCC to cover utility, staffing and other costs are unsustainable in the current climate and consequently there is a need to adjust its budget by incorporating such costs within the church account.

Caretaking hours were reduced by agreement from 16 to 12 per week which may be increased on occasions if necessary.

The Diocesan lead development worker from the Wellsprings Together initiative has offered advice regarding a review of the church's community engagement particularly regarding No.6, however, the resources required is not readily available at this time.

The Committee is now looking forward to a more productive 2023 and has received a number of new room hire bookings and enquiries.

- Carers Wakefield & District Cook & Eat courses
- Core Team East (Baghill House) Health & Wellbeing Mindfulness+ course
- Additional Conexus Healthcare Pontefract & Knottingley PCN 1:1 sessions
- Wakefield Recovery and Wellbeing College courses
- Wakefield Discovery College courses
- Pontefract Choral Society concerts in March, June and December
- The Fairburn Singers joint concert with Latvian choir in September
- WEA courses (tbd)
- Mothers Union Fashion Show on 27 April

The committee was pleased to welcome Father Rod as a new member in July and wish to express its thanks to Vivienne (Secretary), David (Treasurer) and Ian our caretaker for all their help during another difficult year for the Centre.

Committee Membership: Canon June (Chair), Vivienne Smales (Secretary), David Leigh (Treasurer), David Belford, Bill Bradley, Ulric Murray, Fr Rod, Barbara Sessford and Joan Taylor.

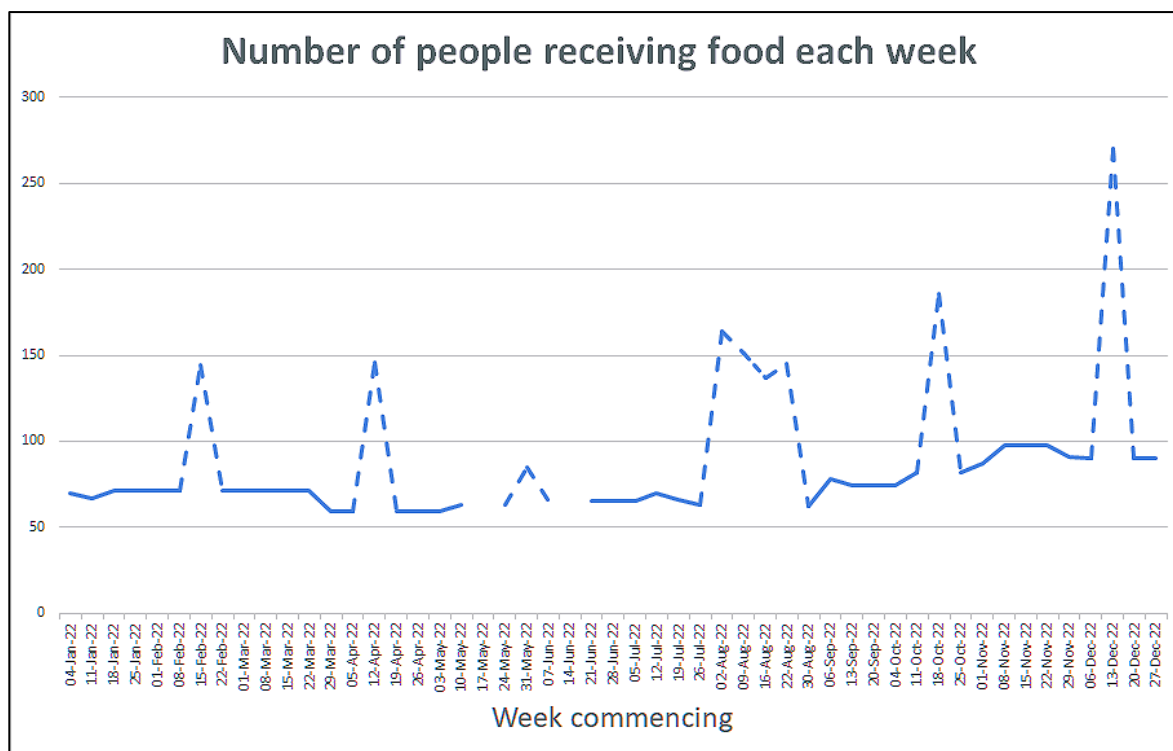
Bill Bradley

*Please see the Appendix for Financial accounts.*

## ST GILES' FOOD SHARE & PANTRY CLUB

We are now over a year into the three-year lease of No 6 from wdh. We are told that wdh values our presence on The Circle, and we are extremely grateful for their sustained support.

No 6 is the base from which two schemes are run to support nominated families with school-age children: the weekly Pantry Club in the Chequerfield/Cobblers areas and the Holiday Food Share offered throughout Pontefract. Concerns about increasing costs of living that were emerging last year have been exacerbated by the events of 2022 and are manifested in the rising need for support from food-aid providers.



The graph shows the steady rise in Pantry Club membership during the year (solid parts of the line), reaching our maximum capacity of 21 families (c100 people), determined by the space available in the shop. The dashed lines show the totals reached during school holidays which now include half-term deliveries to help family budgets. The number of participating families has doubled from the summer scheme to over 40 at Christmas (c200 people). We expect this level of need to be maintained at least through 2023.

The increase at Christmas also reflects Cherry Tree Academy starting to nominate families to the Holiday Food Share again. Up to that point, families in their catchment area were accessing the scheme only through other referral agencies. Throughout the year, we have received a number of nominations from the Foodbank to help support families in the school holidays. This reflects the close collaboration with the Foodbank, based on shared values and a will to complement each other's approach to tackling local poverty. Some Holiday Food Share families have gone on to join the Pantry Club. The security of assured access to food has again enabled most Pantry Club families to avoid the necessity of crisis referral to a foodbank and this must help their emotional well-being.

Distribution of holiday food parcels has been undertaken by a team of drivers who continue to respond to our requests for help. The Friday doorstep drop of fresh fruit and veg is now

established and is also undertaken by three drivers operating on a rota system. We are very grateful for this support without which we would not be able to undertake the increased provision of both schemes. Thank you too to David Leigh who helps us to negotiate with outside agencies on financial issues.

The generous St Giles' monthly food donations have been sustained throughout the year and are helpfully responsive to our entries in the weekly Notices about our immediate needs. All Saints' also makes regular food collections for No 6; we have been supported by St Stephen's; and St Joseph's is proposing to set up a box in Church. Collections at Harvest and other occasions have been donated to Food Share by St Giles', Orchard Head and De Lacy schools. We also have a permanent collection point in Pontefract Asda from which we also receive a monthly trolley-load of items. Morrisons Community Champions continue to donate to No 6, from both stock and the green charity bags. Donations can also be made at the YMCA store and Willow Park Care Home.

When available, we like to distribute fresh foodstuffs, particularly fruit and vegetables, mainly on a Friday. Some is delivered by FareShare and Morrisons often put expiring perishable food aside for us when shelves are restocked. A couple who grew surplus potatoes on their allotment kept us going for several months, and the weekly delivery of under-size potatoes from Stringer's Farm in Stapleton picked up again towards the end of the year. We also applied for and received a grant from wdh to finance purchases of fruit and vegetables over the winter period for Pantry and Holiday Food Share families.

We have also benefitted from financial donations during the year. WMDC continue to fund the weekly FareShare deliveries. Our stall at last year's Community Showcase gave the opportunity for contact with Pontefract Rotary, and we were invited to make a presentation to the group which was followed by a donation that helped pay for the summer holiday scheme. Since the autumn, we have received a generous monthly donation from a local firm which is fully spent to make weekly in-store purchases, particularly of milk, breakfast juice and jam, items which are rare in FareShare deliveries. We are very grateful for these and individual monetary donations, some regular and others apparently 'spur of the moment' when people are passing the shop.

As we are at capacity for our weekly Pantry deliveries, we are now 'signing up' members who will come to the shop to pick up their food parcels. To support this, we need to have supplies of bread available for these families and have applied to Hillards Charitable Trust for a grant to purchase a small under-counter freezer. This in turn has required the insertion of an additional power socket and Fixx have again offered to provide one free of charge.

Though we are reluctant to 'advertise' our schemes on social media, St Giles' Food Share is becoming well known in the community and we are grateful for the goodwill and donations from local people.

Paul & Ann Harris

## **ST MARY'S**

Once again it is my pleasure to report on the year at St Mary's.

The congregation, whilst small in number, have undoubted enthusiasm, which makes leading services a joy.

“Messy Church” has hit the scene, under the auspices of Fr Sam, and will be a regular feature.

We have music, by way of technology, which I have yet to get to grips with! And this makes a great deal of difference.

The year culminated with a very successful “Christmas Event” raising over £500 and a Christmas Eve carol service and Christmas Morning Eucharist.

My thanks go to all who support this Church.

Fr Michael Taylor

## **SOCIAL MEDIA**

2022 was a busy and, at times, challenging year for the social media. Events both internationally and closer to home have required a response both in the form of prayer and information about what is taking place at St Giles’ to mark what has happened. There has, of course, been the war in Ukraine where, especially during the early days of the conflict, we were sharing prayers from different denominations (both Church of England and Orthodox). We also had to respond to a number of high profile deaths this year including those of Archbishop Desmond Tutu, His Late Holiness Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI and, of course, Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II through the sharing of prayers and tributes. The death of the later involved monitoring different social media accounts for prayers and other information surrounding the Late Queen death which were considered of interest to those who visit our social media platforms. This included sharing Westminster Abbey’s history of the Cross that was placed at the head of Her Late Majesty’s coffin during her Lying in State.

In terms of the numbers visiting and interacting with our main social media platforms, we continue to see growth both in terms of people liking or following us or visiting them. At the end of 2022 the Parish Facebook had nearly 400 likes and nearly 500 followers. A deal with the administrators Pontefract Community Page Facebook group to share as much or as little of our content from the Facebook page on there means that we reach about 8,000 people a week via Facebook. The Benefice Twitter account currently has 129 followers. A massive thank you goes to both the Diocese and Church of England Twitter accounts for their continued encouragement on Twitter through liking and retweeting what we post including the photo of our ten Confirmation Candidates after the service in September. We also continue to have healthy visitor numbers to both Churches’ A Church Near You pages with St Mary’s receiving 11,474 visits in the last 12 months and St Giles’ receiving 14,618 visits in the same period. 2022 also marked the end of an era when our last live streamed service of Compline which took place on the 6<sup>th</sup> January. This received 52 views.

2023 promises to be another busy year for the social media. We, of course, have His Majesty’s Coronation to look forward to in May and will be sharing prayers and information about events taking place in the Parish about what will be taking place to mark that. Please don’t forget that if you would like to promote an event that you’re planning or photos from an event which has taken place on the social media then please email the details and photos to **stgmsocialmedia@gmail.com** and I’ll happily put it on for you.

Jonathan Harris

## TIDDLYWINKS REPORT

Last year was very encouraging. We managed to maintain maximum numbers throughout the year and, weather permitting, we held our usual church session at the castle much to the delight of the children.

Like the whole of the nation, we also held a party in celebration of the Queen's Jubilee with all the children coming in fancy dress and we made jewelled crowns.

We meet every Thursday morning, 10:30 to 12:00 in term time, for a short children's service which includes a story, prayers and songs accompanied by noisy musical instruments. The children then do various craft activities so that they have something to take home to show their parents/guardians. This is followed by playtime in the café area with refreshments. This year, thanks to the generosity of our users, we have been able to make donations to church who provide us with a warm, welcoming place for our meetings.

Our group consists of Sandra Cutting, Jill Townsend, Elaine Troughton, Sheila Roydhouse and Barbara Lavine.

## **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT**

### **The Benefice of Pontefract: The Parish of St Giles with St Mary's Pontefract,**

Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31 December 2022

I report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2022 which are set out from pages 32-38.

#### ***Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner.***

- The church's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts.
- The church's trustees 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)
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

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 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 you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

#### ***Independent Examiner's statement:***

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

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act and the Regulations 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.

Name: Mr John Ransome (signed on page 33)

Address: John Ransome Accountancy Services Ltd  
11 Northleigh, East Hardwick, Pontefract, WF8 3DR

# ST GILES' PCC – FINANCIAL STATEMENT YEAR ENDING 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2022

## RESTRICTED FUND DETAILS AT 31.12.2022:

Fund	£	
Belfry	812.87	
Hardship	1,801.58	
Choir	338.90	
Flower	414.47	
Junior Church	51.95	
Missions	2,373.94	
Garden	0.00	
Sanctuary	499.84	
MU Weds Coffee Fund	558.17	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,851.72</b>	

ST. GILES' PCC

BANK ACCOUNTS @ 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2022

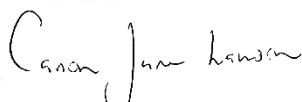
	Year End 2022		Year End 2021	
<b>Yorkshire Bank Current Account</b>	<b>14,325.80</b>		20,654.20	
<b>Yorkshire Bank Investment</b>	<b>75,719.51</b>		75,414.24	
<b>Yorkshire Building Society</b>	<b>1,356.62</b>	<b>91,401.93</b>	1,316.25	97,384.69
<b>Creditors</b>		<b>0</b>		<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>91,401.93</b>		<b>97,384.69</b>
<b>Breakdown of Assets:</b>				
<b>General PCC Funds</b>	<b>75,224.61</b>		94,537.20	
<b>Designated Funds</b>	<b>9,325.60</b>		-1,951.14	
<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>6,851.72</b>	<b>91,401.93</b>	4,798.63	97,384.69
<b>2022 Cash Deficit</b>		<b>(5,982.76)</b>		

Signed:



David Leigh, Treasurer, St Giles PCC

Signed:

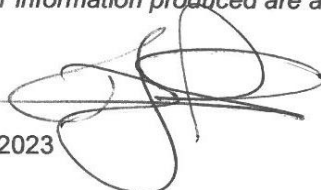


Chair, St. Giles PCC

**Statement by Independent Examiner:**

*I certify that the above Balance Sheet and accompanying documentation with records, vouchers, receipts and other information produced are a true and accurate record.*

Signed:



John Ransome (John Ransome Accountancy Services Limited)

January 2023

## ST GILES' PCC – FINAL SUMMARY of RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS 2022

Income	Budget to Year End	Actual		
<b>Direct Giving</b>				
Standing Orders - Gift Aided	19000		22193	
FWO & Cash - Gift Aided	8500		7285	
FWO & Cash - Not Gift Aided	4500		5178	
Gift Aid Tax Refund	8000	40000	9718	44373
<b>Legacies / Donations</b>				
Legacies & Donations	4200		10293	
Contribution from St Giles' Centre	8800	13000	6228	16521
<b>Weddings / Funerals / Baptisms</b>				
Fees	5000		3638	
Collections	2000	7000	3076	6714
<b>Other Income</b>				
Parish Magazine - Sales & Adverts	1000		931	
Printing	1500		1454	
Refreshments	7000	9500	7516	9900
<b>Fundraising</b>				
Christmas Draw	1250		1200	
Other (see notes)	450	1700	2245	3445
<b>St Mary's (S/Os &amp; Parish Share)</b>	5500	5500		5109
<b>Sundries</b>		2300		83
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>79000</b>		<b>86146</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
	<b>Budget to Year End</b>		<b>Actual</b>	
<b>Buildings</b>				
Insurance	5000		4871	
Repairs & Renewals	3500	8500	7093	11965
<b>Utilities</b>				
Electricity	2500		2106	
Gas	6000		5367	
Water	750		529	
Phones & Internet	750	10000	831	8832
<b>Administration</b>				
Clergy Expenses	2000		1634	

Funeral Fees	1000		1071	
Caretaker & PA Wages	15000	18000	15446	18151
<b>Publishing</b>				
Photocopier Rental & Printing	3000		2251	
Stationery	2000		1421	
		5000		3673
<b>Organist &amp; Musicians</b>				
Organist	6000		6010	
Misc. (inc tuning)	1500	7500	947	6957
<b>St Giles' Parish Share</b>				
Common Fund (G £51166, M £4449)		51000		43490
<b>Mission Activities</b>		1000		1123
<b>St Mary's (S/Os &amp; Parish Share)</b>	5500	5500		5440
<b>Sundries</b>				
Refreshments	1000		1145	
Misc.	1500	2500	3284	4430
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>109000</b>		<b>104060</b>
		<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	
<b>TOTAL ST GILES PCC RECEIPTS</b>		<b>79000</b>	<b>86146.18</b>	
<b>TOTAL ST GILES PCC EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>109000</b>	<b>104060.17</b>	
<b>SUM OF RECEIPTS AGAINST PAYMENTS 2022</b>				<b>-17913.99</b>
<b>Net Cash Transfers 2022</b>				<b>11931.23</b>
<b>TOTAL CASH SURPLUS 2022</b>				<b>-5982.76</b>
<b>Current State of Accounts:</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>end 2021</b>		
Yorkshire Building Society	£1,356.62	<b>£1,316.25</b>		
Yorkshire Bank Current Account (31/12)	£14,325.80	<b>£20,654.20</b>		
Yorkshire Bank Invested	£75,719.51	<b>£75,414.24</b>		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£91,401.93</b>	<b>£97,384.69</b>		

General PCC Funds	£75,224.61	<b>£94,537.20</b>
Restricted Funds	£6,851.72	<b>£4,798.63</b>
Designated Funds	£9,325.60	<b>-£1,951.14</b>

**Notes:**

Deficit

The deficit between income and expenditure was £17913.99 in 2022. This is lower than predicted in the budget (-£30k) and is mainly due to the fact that we only paid 85% of our Parish Share (£43490) and the arrival of the Diocesan Energy Grant (£4350) in December.

Income

The Gift Aid Refund of £9717.77 was received in April

An anonymous donation of £5k was also received in April.  
(Designated Donation)

The Church Building Grant of £2k was received in October.  
The Bishop's Development Grant of £4573.60 was received in October.  
(Designated Donation)

The LDBF Energy Grant of £4350 arrived in December.  
(£1462.50 of which has been transferred to All Saints)

Fundraising included the annual Christmas Draw plus several bric-a-brac stalls, the Harvest Supper, a Fashion Show and a Silent Movie evening.

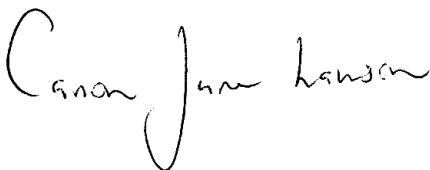
Expenditure

85% of St Giles' Parish Share has been paid off (£43490) by year end  
St Mary's have paid theirs in full (£4449).

The work by Furniss & Sons on the North roof has been completed and has been paid for (£3480)

**DJL**  
**31st December 2022**

**Approved on behalf of the PCC by**



**Revd Canon June Lawson, Vicar and PCC Chair**  
**7 March 2023**

## St Giles' Church Pontefract

### Summary of St Giles' Centre Accounts 2022

#### Income

Room Rentals	£ 4,296	(£3,570 in 2021)
Funding for Citizen's Advice	£ 6,290	
Pontefract Food Bank	£ 320	
TOTAL	<b>£ 10,906</b>	

#### Expenditure

*Part Time Caretaker (50% of wage)	£ 2,313
*Part Time Parish Administrator (10% of wage)	£ 675
*Contribution to Utilities	£ 3,240
Lift Maintenance & Repair	£ 2,725
Alamo Annual Maintenance Contract	£ 0
Pontefract In Bloom	£ 207

TOTAL **£ 9,160**

Trading Profit 2022 **£ 1,746**

\*Nine months of contributions

St Giles' Centre Bank Balance at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 **£ 7,963.23**  
(of which £1378.81 belongs to Lunch With Us)

**DJL January 2023**

### Lunch with Us Account Summary 2022

3768 meals were served in 2022.

The venture had a turnover of £ 1,310 in 2022, £260 of which was subsidy from LwU funds.

Lunch With Us had a positive bank balance of £ 1378.81 as at December 31<sup>st</sup> 2022.

Many thanks to all who contributed towards this very worthwhile venture.

Our 350<sup>th</sup> session of Lunch with Us was celebrated on December 28<sup>th</sup> 2022.

**DJL January 2023**

**St Giles' with St Mary's Missions Committee: Income and Expenditure January 2022- December 2022**

<b>INCOME</b>			<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Amount</b>
From 2021	Brought forward	755.34			
Jan 22	Coffee	62.00	Feb 22	Church Army	251.00
Feb 22	Coffee	106.00	Feb 22	TLM	251.00
Feb 22	Beetle Drive	122.00	Feb 22	CMS	251.00
Mar 22	Coffee	140.00			
Apr 22	Coffee	82.00			
Apr 22	Chocolate Tombola	193.00			
May 22	Coffee	136.00			
Jun 22	Coffee	145.00			
Jun 22	Cake Stall	92.00			
Jul 22	Coffee	113.10			
Aug 22	Coffee	49.00			
Sep 22	Coffee	149.00			
Oct 22	Coffee	106.00		<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>753.00</b>
Nov 22	Coffee	139.00			
Nov 22	Mission Sunday collection	31.00			
Dec 22	Coffee (inc 2 contactless payments)	181.50			
Nov - Dec 22	Sale of reindeer	505.00			
Interest		20.00		<b>Balance carried forward</b>	<b>2373.94</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>3126.94</b>			
			LENT PROJECT: Mara. £327.00 was transferred to the LDBF Account for Majengo Mapya.		

Income and Expenditure Statement verified by David Leigh 5 January 2023



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# Accounts

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THE BENEFICE OF PONTEFRACT  
PARISH OF ST GILES with ST MARY'S  
Registered Charity No. 1135106



# ANNUAL REPORTS AND ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021





The Benefice of Pontefract  
Parish of St Giles with St Mary's  
Vicar: The Revd Canon June Lawson

What a year!

On January 4<sup>th</sup> 2021, the Prime Minister announced a third national lockdown coming into force. On 6<sup>th</sup> January, schools were told to delay opening and remote learning returned for our school children. St Giles school were at the sharp end of this.

St Giles with St Mary's had to request permission from the diocesan bishop to suspend public worship for a period of time initially until Ash Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February- the permission however needing to be extended. This was in direct response to a request from the Director of Public Health in Wakefield District for faith communities to consider not meeting in order to help to prevent transmission of the new strain. And so throughout the year, the term 'new variants' with varying degrees of health risk became something that we all had to get used to learning about and worrying about- Kent, South African, Brazilian, Indian, Omicron...' At the beginning of March, we began to hear talk of 'roadmaps out of lockdown'- the first step to be March 8<sup>th</sup>. Our own 'Roadmap out of Lockdown' was devised in early March to help us to move forward as government directives permitted. Carefully we charted how government rule changes impacted our life as a church and enabled us to slowly resume 'normal' business. Reopening for public worship on Palm Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> March was a wonderful joy to us as a Christian community.

In society, the vaccine programme with increasing numbers of vaccination centres continued to be rolled out at great energy, with health vulnerability and then age determining when we were 'jabbed'. Terms like 'rule of six', continued to be part of church speak as we sought to gather indoors safely for worship. Wearing of masks in church, social distancing, hand sanitisation, one-way systems around church, meetings on zoom, communion only in one kind, continued to be the new norm. It was sobering news when on Good Friday, a service taking place at a RC church in London was broken up by police for people's failure to wear face coverings or to socially distance.

And then in April, as a nation, we entered 'step 2' of the road map (it was good to get a haircut again!) and later in May 'step 3' began: up to thirty now able to gather outside, but indoors the 'rule of six' still applied. 30 could attend a wedding, numbers at funerals were unlimited, provided social distancing was maintained. Our first baptism took place on May 23<sup>rd</sup> and a thrice postponed wedding finally took place on 27<sup>th</sup> June. Rapid Flow testing became more widely available. At St Giles and St Mary's we grew used to complying with covid guidance as it shifted and changed through the months. All was going well but in June the prime minister announced a delay to 'step 4' wanting a few more crucial weeks to meet the target of two thirds of the adult population being double vaccinated. On July 19<sup>th</sup> we were told movement could finally be made to 'step 4'. The relief was palpable.

At the start of September, at St Giles we stopped live streaming our Sunday worship as numbers attending worship increased significantly. The social media report shows how central our Facebook page and other media accounts were in helping us to stay in touch and worship together through the covid crisis and to livestream worship as we needed. But once again, in November, another variant (omicron) led to a renewed programme for booster jabs. Face coverings came into force again. Will 'Christmas be cancelled again?' was the concern around the nation.

Throughout the year the amending of risk assessments continued to take time and energy, as in 2020. Later in 2021, version 15 was reached! Behind every written risk assessment, every review, the pastoral concern always to keep people we love and care for safe in our church. So once again I thank our standing committee for all the ways in which they have borne that weight with due care and consideration for your welfare.

The numerous reports in our booklet show how in the latter part of the year our life as a Christian church and our work in the community began to emerge slowly out of the covid restrictions and flourish into life again.

'Lunch with Us' continued as a take-away provision operating out of the tower and north door. The provision of holiday food for families nominated by local schools, along with the development of the pantry club became even more firmly rooted in Chequerfield and continued to help those in need in that community. Faithful dedicated volunteers enabled these ministries of care to flourish.

Open church continued throughout the week enabling a quiet space for people to come in and reflect, pray or light a candle. The St Giles' Centre report details how other community groups using our building started, stopped, and resumed again as restrictions permitted.

When restrictions were lifted our baptism welcomers were able to join the clergy to meet with families for baptism preparation and to be an essential part of our baptism service as representatives of the Christian community at St Giles. Our first baptism in nearly two years was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> May with a maximum of 30 guests.

Tiddlywinks came back together in September to meet in the café area, choir practices again resumed, and bell ringing happened in limited ways when possible. Organ recitals were permitted in the autumn, but larger concerts still not advised. The Mother's Union had its first face to face meeting in September as did Junior church. Our flower ladies were once again able to beautify our worship with wonderful pedestals of flowers on festival occasions. Wednesday and Saturday coffee mornings resumed in September, but Sunday post service coffee/tea still restricted due to larger numbers gathering in a small space. The servers team slowly began to help in the sanctuary on Sundays. The choir's repertoire slowly building once again as greater singing was permitted during Sunday worship, congregational singing slowly resumed in the early autumn albeit behind masks. Heritage week was supported at St Giles with tours, bell ringing, refreshments and a wonderful video produced by Bruce Dalgleish on the church-stained glass windows was made available online.

Beyond the round of the annual Christian festivals and regular services, special services were held (particularly in the latter part of the year) but beginning with a special evensong in memory of HRH Prince Philip on 18<sup>th</sup> April. Bishop Tony also presided and preached at our Mass on the same morning. The Archdeacon's Visitation service was held at St Giles on 5<sup>th</sup> July, a few days after our new curate, Fr Sam Fletcher, was ordained deacon at Ripon cathedral. Then on 26<sup>th</sup> September and October 2<sup>nd</sup> services were held for Generosity week; on 2<sup>nd</sup> October an organ recital given by Thomas Moore was set up to give thanks for the restoration work generously funded by Michael Phipps. On 10<sup>th</sup> October a centenary bell peal took place postponed from April 2020. On 17<sup>th</sup> October, a Memorial service was held for Donald Chessman (former long standing choir member) and on Christ the King Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> November, at a special evening prayer we thanked David Brooks, our Reader, and Jack Roberts, a choir member, for their long service to St Giles. Early in November at a Wednesday Mass Fr Rod Walker, having finished his curacy, was licensed as an associate priest within the benefice.

At Remembrance time we were once again able to hold the usual service at the cenotaph followed by the civic service in Church. To accompany the occasion a large display of poppies cascaded

down the tower of the church. A short service was additionally held on Remembrance Day followed by the children from St Giles school visiting the church to view the war memorials.

On Advent Sunday the church was illuminated as part of the Wakefield council 'light Up' programme and switching on of the town Christmas lights. Early in Advent, a new family style service was held at St Mary's. The first of the new all-age seasonal services with the hope that a monthly all age service will become possible in 2023. A weekly Advent course was also held after the Wednesday Mass, along with the livestreaming of evening prayer for Advent. It was good to physically meet together having held the Lent course online. More normality seemed to resume when the Pontefract choral society held their Christmas concert early in December having postponed many concerts, this was swiftly followed by the Masonic carol service, our own St Giles carol service and then the visits by schools to hold their Christingle or carol service. Christmas came with its usual round of services, (not forgetting the infamous Christmas draw!) and we celebrated with larger numbers in church than in the depths of covid ridden 2020.

Undergirding and woven through all the ministry and mission of our church is the continued round of building maintenance and cleaning, at the hands of a dedicated small team who know that without our beautiful building so much that benefits our community would not happen. We mustn't forget also the importance of the numerous business orientated church meetings which keep us operating responsibly as a church and as a registered charity. Each meeting taking time and energy, commitment and focus.

Amidst all the meetings, the looking after finance and fabric, the range of church and community activities, the weekly round of worship across our churches, we must never lose sight of 'whose church it is and on whose foundation it stands'- 'for unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labour in vain' (Psalm 127). Our patronal designations are St Giles and St Mary's, but we bear one reality really and that is that we are built on the foundation of Jesus Christ, as such we are 'Christ's church.' In the New Testament, Jesus reminds Peter and all the disciples 'I will build my church'.

The letters of the New Testament, tell the story of how the church comes into life and being when the followers of Jesus take the template of Jesus' life, death and resurrection and use it to frame the shape of the emerging church. As followers of Jesus today, that same template or pattern is there to guide and shape us afresh in our own time and place.

May our prayer be as follows:

Lord of the Church, who has given to your servants a diversity of gifts, that they may share them: Grant us the generous heart to give, the humble heart to receive, that we, with all that love you, may know the fullness of your grace; that your love may be perfected in us; to the glory of your name. Amen. (Daily Prayer)

Thank you to all who have submitted reports. A special thank you to Vivienne Smales, our administrator, who has the unenviable task of pulling it altogether into a whole.

Canon June Lawson

March 2022

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## **ST GILES' CHURCH (within the Benefice of Pontefract)**

St Giles' Church is situated at the heart of Pontefract town centre. There has been a church on this site since at least the 12th Century. A significant re-ordering took place in 2012-2013. The ecclesiastical parish includes a wide range of housing within its bounds including new housing on a former pit site. St Giles' Church of England Academy is within the parish, along with three other primary schools, a secondary academy, and New College, Pontefract. Pontefract General Infirmary, and the Prince of Wales hospice are also within the parish, along with leisure centres, a golf club, numerous retail outlets, and significant local employers such as the Haribo factory. St Mary's community centre is a significant community provision based in Chequerfield. St Mary's church meets weekly in this local centre.

The services at St Giles range from simple forms of worship to sung services. Our mid-week services - follow a simpler form of Eucharistic worship. During 2021, amidst the global pandemic, we have additionally livestreamed services of morning prayer, evening prayer and compline at various points.

The 10:15am Service of the Mass on Sunday mornings is a sung service with parts of the Eucharistic liturgy sung by our wonderful choir who rehearse weekly. On Feast Days incense is used at this service. Our children's group meets during the service.

Choral Evensong takes place on the first Sunday of the month except in August. Themed services have been held on some occasions (death of HRH Prince Philip).

On Fridays during term time, organ recitals take place in church at 1.00pm. Our organ is one of the finest in the north of England.

St Giles' plays an active role in supporting local charities and organisations: several musical concerts take place in the church throughout the year. Covid has impacted the number of concerts.

No. 6, the leased shop on Chequerfield, has increased its profile providing a Food Pantry and pantry club for local residents to opt into and much needed food provision for families needing help in school holidays. Partnership with the local council and other local businesses has grown through this work

Every Wednesday between 12-1.00pm 'Lunch with Us' has provided take-away, food for the homeless and people with little resources.

There is also a church café serving coffee/teas and cakes, which is open on Wednesdays and Saturdays to coincide with the town's market days.

We have a well supported Mothers' Union, and a toddler group (Tiddlywinks) meets every Thursday morning.

The St Giles' Centre has several meeting rooms which are used by local groups as a venue for their activities. A separate website gives details of the community groups who use its facilities.

Open church run by volunteer enables the church building to be open throughout the week. This allows people to come in for quiet reflection, to light candles for loved ones and to pray.

St Mary's is a small congregation of around 12 people who meet weekly: two Sundays in the month are Eucharistic and two Common Worship morning prayer led by our Deacon, Reader or trainee Reader.

Our bell ringers have met as covid restrictions have allowed.

These activities which indicate 'public benefit' are described in more detail in this report.

## **AIMS AND PURPOSES**

St Giles' with St Mary's Parochial Church Council (PCC) in the Benefice of Pontefract, has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend Canon June Lawson, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish of St Giles, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of St Giles' church, whereas St Mary's congregation meets in a building licensed for worship run by St Mary's Community Project.

## **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES.**

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our churches and become part of our worshipping community at St Giles and at St Mary's. Broadly our vision is to be an open, welcoming, and inclusive church.

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion by:

offering the opportunity for individuals and families to come together for public worship, prayer, and teaching as part of our Sunday, midweek services, evening worship and learning events. During successive lockdowns, most services were livestreamed using the Facebook platform.

Offering 'Open Church' throughout the week which offers reflective and prayerful space for those who need a quiet environment to cope with life's challenges; during any lockdown periods we were able to open for private prayer.

Providing pastoral care through the occasional offices such as baptisms, funerals, occasional weddings as well as visiting the sick and taking the sacrament to them; face to face pastoral ministry has been impacted by successive lockdowns. Phone calls have been central to pastoral support and visits as restrictions allowed.

Supporting our church school through governance, taking of collective worship, enabling school visits to the church (covid dependant), and supporting pastoral needs through the provision of food parcels to designated families in school holidays.

Offering the opportunity to explore matters of faith to children who join in with our Junior church provision; meetings suspended when advised due to high rates of the covid virus in the locality.

Offering through twice weekly coffee mornings, a weekly toddler group, monthly Mother's Union, Whist Group, and our weekly Lunch with Us, the space for people to come together for fellowship and friendship; meetings have on occasions been disrupted due to covid 19.

Providing through 'Lunch with Us,' and the provision of perishable goods made available from local supermarkets, the opportunity to eat without cost or make a small donation.

Providing the community, through rooms made available as part of the St Giles' Centre, with access to citizen's advice, a weekly chair exercise group, arts café, mental health support through the SW Yorkshire Partnership NHS trust team group meetings, and a monthly Readers' group. The Centre was able to operate when the legalities around Covid-19 permitted.

Supporting mission partnerships with other churches (such as the Methodist Church based Foodbank) as well as working with other civic and community organisations; heritage week happened online, and St Giles created a video of its history for online publication.

Providing monthly organ concerts and being a venue for a variety of musical concerts that draw in the local community, such as The Pontefract Choral society concerts.

Providing representatives on the St Mary's Community Project Management Committee which is a not-for-profit organisation offering a range of activities including adult education courses, community activities and has a wide range of other functions and services. Meetings occurred on zoom and in person throughout 2021.

Covid-19 impacted aspects of the above work from March-December 2021.

To facilitate the above activities, it is important that we maintain the fabric of the Church of St. Giles. Our achievements for 2021 are detailed through the collection of reports presented as part of this booklet.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2017) and a registered charity number 1135106. In June 2019, we became part of the newly created Benefice of Pontefract which includes the parish of All Saints, Pontefract along with our own.

Our correspondence address is: Parish Office, St Giles Church, Market Place,  
Pontefract, WF8 1AT  
Tel: 01977 790448  
Email: [stgileschurchpontefract@gmail.com](mailto:stgileschurchpontefract@gmail.com)

Bank: Virgin Money, 81 Carlton Street, Castleford, WF10 1BW

Insurance Provider: Ecclesiastical Insurance Group, Beaufort House, Brunswick Rd, Gloucester,  
GL1 1JZ

Architect: Mr John Cunnington, Walker Cunnington Architects, Knoll Farmhouse,  
The Knoll, Tansley, Matlock, Derbyshire, DE4 5FP

Independent Examiner: Mr John Ransome, John Ransome Accountancy Services Ltd, 21 Front St,  
Pontefract, WF8 1DA

## STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

In June 2019, the union of the Benefice of All Saints' Pontefract and the Benefice of St Giles, Pontefract, became a legal entity. The constituent parishes remain distinct. Canon June Lawson was appointed as the first incumbent of the new Benefice of Pontefract.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules 2017. At St Giles' with St Mary's, the *ex-officio* membership of the PCC consists of the Incumbent (Vicar), other clergy licensed to the benefice, four churchwardens (elected at the Annual Meeting of parishioners), and the 12 members of the laity elected by those members of the congregations who are on the electoral roll of the church. All those who attend our services/ members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC when vacancies occur.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. The Standing Committee is required under Church Representation Rules. It meets approximately 10 times a year to transact the business of the PCC between its full meetings including meeting prior to PCC's to set the agenda for the meeting. It also acts as the personnel committee of the PCC.

The PCC enable people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer, learning opportunities and opportunities to grow in discipleship through the whole Benefice and through signposting to diocesan resources
- Enabling pastoral care to those who live in the parish
- Community engagement
- Missionary support
- Caring for a grade 2 listed building, preserving the fabric for future generations, and developing our building as an asset for both the church and the wider community.
- Framing an annual budget to support this work

During 2021, the full PCC met on zoom four times with an average attendance of 68% and face to face in church twice with an average attendance of 70%.

The PCC has committees with Terms of Reference which deal with a particular aspect of parish life. These committees include the Standing Committee, the St Giles' Centre Management committee, the Fabric, Health and Safety committee, St Mary's Community committee, and the Missions Committee. All are responsible to the PCC and report back to it regularly with minutes of their decisions being received by the full PCC and discussed, as necessary. The committees have met as they have been able.

The following people served as PCC members for all or part of the year 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021- 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021:

Vicar and Chair                    \*The Revd Canon June Lawson  
(ex officio)

Vice Chair                         \*Barbara Sessford

Churchwardens (ex officio)	*Bruce Dagleish *Peter Lavine *Pam Mercer *Barbara Sessford
Deanery Synod Representatives (ex officio)	Maureen Gummerson Tony Williams Ruth Carter
PCC Members	Sonia Atkin David Belford Jill Clapham Lynne Davis Janet Robinson Ulric Murray Joan Taylor Delia Perritt Frank Ward (St Mary's Pro-warden)
Treasurer	*David Leigh
Clergy (ex officio)	Fr Rod Walker, Associate SSM (Priest) Fr Michael Taylor, PTO (Priest) Fr Mark Watkins, Associate stipendiary priest Fr Sam Fletcher, (from September 2021) stipendiary curate

\*indicates member of Standing Committee

The following appointments were made by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, or the Parochial Church Council during the year 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021:

Sides-people	Linda Atkins John Barber Sandra Barker Bill Bradley Betty Carter (to May 2021) Vicki Chappell (to May 2021) Barbara Chessman Janet Colvill Margaret Coverdale	Ann Grice (to May 2021) Margaret Hopwood Ian Knox Barbara Lavine Maureen Milnes Peter Spurr Gavin Thorpe (to May 2021) Geoff Walsh Ian Wood
Secretary	Vivienne Smales	
Treasurer	*David Leigh	
Health and Safety Officer	Peter Lavine	
Safeguarding Officer	Karen MacDonald	
Electoral Roll officer	Bevil Edwards	

Organist and Director of Music	James MacDonald
Disability Officer	Barbara Sessford
St Mary's Community Meeting Chair	David Brooks (to Nov 2021) Fr Michael Taylor (from Dec 2021)
Parish Administrator	Vivienne Smales

## **VOLUNTEERS and Staff**

The mission of the church is also pursued through a wide range of volunteer help as detailed below.

In addition to thanking the assistant clergy, Fr Sam Fletcher (July 2021) Fr Rod Walker and Fr Michael Taylor, along with our honorary Reader, David Brooks (retired Christ the King 2021), and trainee Reader Jill Clapham, I would like to thank all the volunteers who work in so many varied ways and with such generosity to make our church a busy and vibrant community. Canon John Lawson has also given of his time in our worship and learning groups.

Volunteers offer ministry in our regular services, at both churches, as committed members of our wonderful choir, led by our Musical Director and Organist, James Macdonald. Michael Phipps, our organ benefactor, is always willing to offer his time and expertise when the St Giles' organ needs attention. Our dedicated bell ringers have summoned us to worship (Covid regulations permitting), led by the tower captain, Adrian Garner.

Weekly and mid-week services could not happen without the team who serve as lectors, intercessors, and servers; as Eucharistic ministers, sides-people, operators of the sound system, printers of service booklets and arrangers of such beautiful flowers throughout the year. Another lovely team is at work in our Junior church, in the Thursday Tiddlywinks and as baptism welcomers, co-ordinated by Mary Murray.

Administration happens in the parish through our much-appreciated paid part-time administrator, Vivienne Smales, and through two dedicated volunteers, Stuart Lonsdale, and Jonathan Harris. Both give very generously of their time week by week attending to service booklets and other printing tasks including magazines for other churches. Vivienne Smales and Bruce Dalgleish ensured that the magazine kept going during the difficulties of gathering material and achieving production during Covid-19. Jonathan Harris has ensured that our presence on social media has expanded through our Facebook pages, twitter account and the national online platform 'a church near you.'

A large amount of work administering lettings goes on behind the scenes in the St Giles' Centre and so grateful thanks must go to Bill Bradley for his commitment to this.

The church members and wider community are served by numerous volunteers working as part of 'Lunch with Us' (a much-appreciated meal provision in the community), by those catering and serving refreshments as part of the regular coffee mornings, and as individuals staffing the Open

Church rota, enabling the church to be open for the public is an important gift of quiet space for our town.

The caretaker, Ian Wood, a paid staff member, continues to keep our church clean and ensure those letting our rooms are looked after. A small team of volunteers, led by Peter Lavine, also look after the fabric of the church building including heating (Dave Malkin generously giving of his professional services) and attend to health and safety.

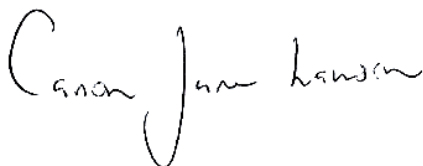
Many members of St Giles serve on committees, not least the PCC and the St Giles' Centre committee, but also as members of Deanery and Diocesan Synods, as part of school governance and as trustees of the St Mary's Community Project. Their role is key to parish and diocesan governance.

Our Mission's Committee organise events to raise funds for our church supported charities. Other local and national charities are supported by individuals raising funds. Individuals organise whist drives, concerts, and recitals, run raffles, grow, and sell plants or run bric a brac stalls to help church and charity funds and along the way provide fellowship for those who take part. Covid has reduced the work through 2021.

Especially during the continued pandemic, through 2021 a big thank goes to our churchwardens: Bruce Dalglish, Peter Lavine, Pam Mercer, and Barbara Sessford, along with their weekly teams, who, always work with such faithfulness and dedication ensuring Covid-19 risk assessments are followed in order to keep us safe during periods of public worship. Frank Ward, St Mary's pro warden, does a wonderful job to ensure that the small community of St Mary's can meet for worship week by week.

David Leigh, church treasurer for so many years, has overseen and administered the church's accounts and its finances. A role that takes a lot of time counting and banking money, paying invoices, populating spreadsheets, and then helping others to make sense of the figures. Covid-19 has continued to present St Giles with financial challenges and our treasurer has kept us well informed throughout.

I hope no team has been missed if you have – multiple apologies. It makes your gift of time no less valuable to our ministry and mission. Covid-19 has impeded our voluntary work, but much has continued.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Canon Jane Lawson". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

## **STATUTORY REPORTS (Achievements and Performance)**

### **ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT**

Notice of revision of the electoral roll was given on 13 February 2022 and the revision was concluded on 13 March 2022. Two applications for inclusion on the roll were received and the names and addresses of the applicants have been entered accordingly.

The details of two members who have died have been removed from the roll.

The number of members recorded on the roll at today's date is 143

Bevil Edwards  
Electoral Roll Officer  
Date: 13 March 2022

### **REPORT ON THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

The PCC welcomed some new members in 2021 and there followed another busy year for the PCC as a whole and for the various groups which report to the PCC.

Some of the significant areas that the PCC has considered are:

- Heritage week in September
- Risk Assessments and roadmaps inc church closure
- The lease on the shop at Chequerfield providing food support families
- The church's budget, parish giving and fundraising
- Works to be undertaken on the fabric of the church including major repairs to the south nave roof, refurbishment of the bells, tower ventilation, internal and external decorations
- Staffing
- Parish Share
- Revising of Term of Reference for committees and church policies
- Receiving of committee reports inc community provision
- Work of the St Giles Foodshare and Pantry club including lease renewal
- Safeguarding dashboard updates, especially related to new role descriptions for leaders and members of teams
- First Aid training course
- Remembrance events
- Parish Magazine review
- Changes to marriage registration
- Diocesan Strategy Survey
- Fees updates

## **SAFEGUARDING**

The church complies with Diocesan Safeguarding Policies and Practices, most recently being able to update the Diocesan Safeguarding Dashboard which supports the work of the PCC in fulfilling its statutory obligations.

All members of St Giles' who are, due to the nature of their post (voluntary or otherwise) are currently in receipt of an enhanced DBS check and this information is confidentially stored with the parish administrator. Post holders and volunteers have all received the necessary clearance to fulfil their roles.

The PCC continues to commit to carrying out the Church of England policy for Safeguarding; it also reaffirms that everyone is responsible for safeguarding children and vulnerable adults irrespective of their role within the church community, with any concerns being reported to the Safeguarding Officer, Clergy or a member of the PCC.

Churchwardens and PCC members have completed the necessary training stages in line with the diocesan policies, as have the leaders of church groups.

Since the last APCM report there have been no Safeguarding issues within Saint Giles', however, the relevant personnel have been made aware of local and regional concerns as a precaution, although this does not pose any risk to children or vulnerable adults in church. A comprehensive list of DBS checks remains updated in line with national protocols.

Karen MacDonald  
Parish Safeguarding Officer

## **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

Please refer to the Financial statements at the end of this booklet.

## **REPORT ON THE FABRIC, HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE 2021**

Generally, the fabric of the church continues to be in good order with a few exceptions that we will endeavour to monitor and correct in the coming year.

The long awaited re-roofing of the South Nave roof has been completed. The project started with preliminary work commencing in mid-April (scaffolding and organ protection) with the main contractors starting work a week later. The project took seven weeks to complete and was overseen by our chartered surveyor. I'm pleased to report that an excellent job was done and the church is now water tight. The original budget was exceeded due mainly to the fact that approximately seventy percent of the original slates had to be replaced due to their poor condition. Replacement slates were not readily available and had to be sourced from all over the country.

## **Tower Bells.**

Following the overhaul of the bells the previous year the final work of painting the bell frame was undertaken. Work stretched over April and a second visit in June saw the work completed to a very high standard. The firm carrying out the contract was TLB, a well-respected firm in this field of work.

## **Ventilation.**

Extra ventilation has been achieved in the tower ringing room by the re-positioning the door from the ringing room to the roof space and the fitting of a mechanical fan in the west window. This was to counteract the threat of covid and also to make the conditions more comfortable for the Ringers.

## **Redecoration**

The fabric committee, continue to redecorate the internal spaces within the Church and Centre and aim to complete this project in the coming year.

I mentioned earlier in this report that the fabric of the church was generally in a good state with a few exceptions; the main one being a problem with damp in the area of the north vestibule and stretching further east along the north wall. Our aim is to consult experts in this field to isolate the problem, and carry out remedial work to the internal decorations in the coming year.

## **Statutory Tests.**

All the statutory tests that are required to allow us to keep the church safe have been completed; PAT, fire-fighting equipment, intruder and fire alarm servicing have been carried out and our commitment to complete the work and inspections identified in our church maintenance schedule remains steadfast. Due to some of the covid restrictions around meeting in church, our Fabric, Health and Safety Committee only met once this year, in June. Hopefully as restrictions have eased we hope that we will be back to a full schedule of meetings in the coming year.

If you are interested in the work of our committee, please talk to one of our members: Peter Lavine, Bill Bradley (who has sole responsibility for the garden(s) and would appreciate volunteers), David Roydhouse, David Malkin, Ian Wood, Charles Atkin and Bevil Edwards.

The risk assessments related to covid safety in the church have been revisited continually throughout the year in conjunction with the vicar and standing committee.

Peter Lavine, Churchwarden

## **REPORT ON THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE DEANERY SYNOD**

Covid restrictions were still in place and the first meeting of the year was via zoom on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2021. Revd. Margaret Gallagher, Area Dean, opened the meeting with prayer and welcomed all the newly elected members. Following an update of Deanery appointments and retirements elections were held for the Deanery posts:

- Mr Tony Williams reappointed as Lay Chair for a three-year term
- Mrs Jo Byrne appointed as Deanery Secretary. Mrs Joan Dewsbury has retired
- Mrs Maureen Gummerson reappointed as Deanery Treasurer.

The following were appointed as members of the Standing Committee: Fr. Tom Bates, Revd. Sharon Brown, Ms. Caroline McLeish and Mr. Gary Sheard.

Revd. Shelagh Stacey has stood down.

Bishop Tony then gave an overview of the problems caused by the covid pandemic. He spoke of the continuing efforts being made by Diocesan Officers to support clergy, parishes and the wider community regarding financial, spiritual, social and mental welfare issues. In his Lenten Reflection Bishop Tony used his jury service experience in a murder trial to reflect on the Lenten theme of temptation and denial. He highlighted the need for each one of us to identify and confront our own person demons.

Synod met again 22<sup>nd</sup> July at St Mary's South Elmsall, Revd. Margaret Gallagher opened the meeting with prayer and welcomes were extended to the curates: Revd. Gemma Fleury (St Mary's, South Elmsall), Revd. Jonathan Fleury (All Saint's, South Kirkby) and Revd. Sam Fletcher (St Giles, Pontefract).

A request was made by the treasurer for a donation of £10 from each parish to cover future expenses for visiting speakers. New signatories for the bank account were required, Fr. Tom Bates and Revd. Margaret Gallagher agreed to take on these roles.

Heather Burge, Governance and Elections' Lead, Diocesan Electoral Registration Officer, gave an informative presentation on the workings of synod at all levels.

The third and final meeting of the year 16<sup>th</sup> November 2021 was held at Brierly School. The Area Dean opened the meeting with prayer and welcomed the clergy and representatives from the Priory Benefice. This new benefice of Grimethorpe, Ryhill with Brierly and South Kirkby is now part of the Pontefract Deanery.

Revd. Greenwood-Haigh assisted by Mrs Claire Motherdale gave a presentation on resettlement and support given to offenders on their release from prison.

Revd. Greenwood-Haigh is managing chaplain to Askham Grange and New Hall Prison. Mrs Claire Motherdale an ex-offender.

Dates have been set for future Synod Meetings. The first one to be held 24<sup>th</sup> February 2022.

Tony Williams /Maureen Gummerson

## **NON-STATUTORY REPORTS (Achievements and Performance)**

### **BAPTISM VISITORS**

After the periods of restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic we were both relieved and gladdened to resume our services of baptism in May 2021, albeit with safeguards in place with regard to the numbers allowed to attend. One family only was present at each service, the number attending the service being limited at first to 30; this was increased to 50 in July. For similar reasons Baptism Welcomers did not at first attend the Preparation Meetings but have taken part since August.

The Preparation meetings have been led by Canon June and Father Sam. Through them we offer the families and godparents the opportunity to reflect in a relaxed and informal setting their reasons for seeking baptism, followed by time to think about the service itself, its symbols and significance.

There have been 14 baptisms in 2021 of which one was an adult, 6 were children under the age of one year, 6 were between 1 and 4 years and one child was 5 years old.

We have been pleased this year to welcome Robert Jubb and Bridget Sowerby as Baptism Welcomers. There are now 9 of us in the team. My warm thanks to everyone involved in this ministry for their commitment and adaptability!

My thanks also to Vivienne Smales who has taken on many tasks to ensure that the baptism procedures run smoothly. She has consistently ushered us efficiently through these changing times.

Should anyone in the congregation wish to know more about the role of Baptism Welcomers, please feel able to speak with myself, the clergy or one of the team.

Mary Murray

### **BELL RINGING**

COVID-19 restrictions have, once again, curtailed the ringing of bells to a large extent both within the tower at St Giles and more widely in the Church of England. Restrictions are now being lifted and we can return to practice on Monday evenings [7:30pm - 9pm] in preparation for ringing the bells before the 10:15 service each Sunday.

Unfortunately, we have lost two long standing and much loved members of our ringing team this year so ringing will be affected until we can recruit and train new members. If you are curious about learning a new skill that has been developed over the last 500 years, please contact Adrian Garner [07790 956257 or [adrianroygarner@gmail.com](mailto:adrianroygarner@gmail.com)]. We have been fortunate to retain the ringers we have and I am happy to report they are making steady but progressive improvements to their bell handling skills so the standard of ringing will be improving in the weeks and months to come.

We look forward to being able to welcome guest ringers to the tower as well as guest teams to enjoy the wonderful sound of the bells at St Giles. The ringers would like to thank Canon June, and all at St Giles for their support over the last year.

Adrian Garner

Tower Captain

## **FLOWER TEAM**

“Consider the Lilies of the fields...”

The Covid restrictions meant that for quite some time we were unable to arrange flowers at Giles. We were delighted when we were able to start again, firstly for special occasions and then to return to do weekly arrangements.

There are now only 3 flower fairies. We were greatly saddened when Eileen Walters felt that she could not continue helping with flowers due to ill health. We thank Eileen for her time and the skills she brought to our flower arranging mornings and we wish her better health in the future. We would also like to thank Elaine Troughton, who is always ready to help us when we need an extra pair of hands.

We consider it to be a great privilege to work with some of the most beautiful parts of God’s creations and to enhance our church building at St Giles.

You will have noticed that we now do two arrangements each week. Obviously the entrance hall is now taken up with the hand sanitiser and other stands. The cost of flowers has also risen quite steeply and, sadly, there are no flower sellers on the Saturday market. However, the rota is now in the entrance and we would encourage people to sign up and to make contributions towards the flowers. We do not expect you to meet the cost of all the flowers. Many people like to mark a significant occasion or date by sponsoring the flowers, but it can be just because you like flowers. We always try to include requests for a special colour or flower. Meanwhile we shall do our bit and are planning a fund raising event later in the year.

Sandra Cutting  
The Flower Team

## **JUNIOR CHURCH**

We are really looking forward to getting together again as this has not been possible during this last year.

Once we can meet again, we plan to look at Jesus’ life through the signs identified by John’s gospel. A risk assessment has been written and will be updated as we plan to gather again in the Upper Room!!

Lynne Davis

## **LUNCH WITH US REPORT**

Lunch with Us has run throughout most of the pandemic as a takeaway service on Wednesday lunchtime.

Just recently we had our 300<sup>th</sup> meal service which is a testament to the loyal volunteers who turn up week in week out.

We have managed to secure a couple of grants and we have had a few individual donations which have helped us to continue this work.

We have also been able through the Hardship Fund to provide shoes and warm clothes for several customers.

Thank you to Greggs who provide us with leftover food.

Thank you to everyone who has given a donation whether financial, food or treats.....and the butter/margarine tubs that allow us to serve jacket potatoes!

Lastly, thank you to the amazing team of volunteers who come not only from St Giles but other local churches and our community.

Barbara Sessford  
Lunch with Us Coordinator

## **THE MISSIONS COMMITTEE REPORT**

During 2021 Missions fundraising was once again restricted due to Covid 19. We were able to resume Saturday morning coffee (our main source of income) from September 2021. During that short time, we raised £755.00 to distribute to our charities. This was boosted by members producing extra baking to sell. Anne Healy also knitted novelty table decorations. These were in the form of Christmas puddings designed to hold a Ferrero Rocher chocolate! They proved very popular!

The five charities we continue to support are:

### **CMS**

We help fund Andrew and Andrea Young, who work on behalf of the CMS, providing pastoral care to United Mission in Nepal.

### **The Leprosy Mission**

TLM offers rehabilitation, education, vocational training, small business loans, housing and fresh water and sanitation to tens of thousands of leprosy sufferers each year. Our contribution will go towards this valuable work.

We also collect and send used stamps to TLM. Many thanks to all who save used postage stamps and bring them into Church. These raise a substantial amount of money for TLM every year.

## **Church Army**

The Missions Committee donate towards their work in very deprived areas of the UK.

## **The Mission to Seafarers**

They work worldwide to support seafarers, giving specialist help in a crisis. Our contribution helps towards this.

## **Mara**

Majengo Mapya is our link parish near Musoma on Lake Victoria.

The Missions Committee hope that 2022 will be a more successful year for our fundraising activities and thank all our congregation for their loyal support.

Edie Barber

Treasurer and Secretary

## **MOTHERS' UNION**

We have twenty-eight members and three indoor members. We held our first meeting in September last year

We managed to have three fund raising events making it possible for us to send £150.00 to AFIA (Away from it all holidays) £150 to help the upkeep of the caravans and £100.00 to Worldwide Funds

We held our New Year Social in January and enjoyed a Beetle Drive in February. We look forward to hopefully being able to conduct our programme throughout the year, including celebrating our Queen's Platinum accession to the throne.

Marjorie Laidlaw

## **MUSIC REPORT**

The choir continues to make an excellent contribution to the Liturgy at Saint Giles', despite the challenges of the past year. In September we bade farewell to Niamh and Theo as they began their studies at Birmingham and Hull (we politely remind them that neither accents are to be brought back to Pontefract). Their service to life at St Giles' is amazing. We were pleased to welcome back Lydia and Rachel as more regular members of the top line, too.

A new mass setting by Peter Nardone was introduced and we look forward to the congregation joining in with this in due course, as well as singing familiar hymns to 'wrong tunes': the word unfamiliar is perhaps more appropriate. Indeed, new repertoire has been added to keep the worship fresh and the choir on its toes.

The Friday recital series has been successfully reinstated and we were very pleased to welcome Tom to open the proceedings with an amazing recital in October. The change to monthly recitals seems to be more sustainable.

As always I extend my gratitude to the choir and to Tom Moore and Paul Bowen and I look forward to the easing of restrictions on singing in church so that we can get back to some hearty music-making. I'd like to thank Pam Mercer for all her help and support in dealing with music matters (the library of thousands of copies is quite a challenge to keep on top of) and for her service to the choir. Whilst we may not hear her as much as we used to, we are grateful for her being on standby.

James MacDonald  
Organist and Director of Music

## **OPEN CHURCH**

Open Church has been affected by the pandemic and church was not able to be open as much as we would have liked.

We are now able to open most days for four hours and on Friday and Saturday mornings. This enables people to be able to sit quietly in church, say a prayer, to light a candle or just to look at our beautiful building.

Thank you to a great team of volunteers who enable us to keep our church open. We have lost a few volunteers over the last couple of years and would like to encourage anyone who feels that they can help to come forward and volunteer.

Barbara Sessford

## **PARISH MAGAZINE**

Having retreated to the Covid-free zone of the Internet for the duration of lockdown, the magazine is now, once again, being published in paper form, albeit in a slightly enhanced form, with a sleeker cover and four colour pages.

Thanks are due to everybody who has continued to contribute to our magazine, particularly Vivienne, not least for her time spent in searching through the Parish Pump for online material and to Stuart for 10 years of doing the layout, sometimes from as far away as Tanzania. He has now stepped down and his role has been taken over by Bruce.

While on-line publishing has its advantages, many of us still prefer the feel of a paper copy in our hands and, while the price has risen, we hope that the improved quality of the magazine will more than compensate for the increase. It still costs less per month than half the price of a cup of coffee in our café and hopefully continues to fulfil a useful role in reflecting life in our church and the wider community.

Your items for the magazine are always welcome. Please send them to [brucedalgleish0@gmail.com](mailto:brucedalgleish0@gmail.com) and [stgileschurchpontefract@gmail.com](mailto:stgileschurchpontefract@gmail.com) or, if they are handwritten, simply hand them to Vivienne or Bruce, or another churchwarden.

Bruce Dalgleish

## **PASTORAL CARE**

During Covid-19, leaders of the various church groups have stayed connected with members, the database of church members has enabled phone calls to be made to check up on people's wellbeing and visits made as appropriate. Weekly notice sheets have been delivered to those who do not have internet access. Food deliveries during school holidays to nominated school families have continued throughout the pandemic and Lunch with Us has provided a takeaway service to those in need of its support.

Where members of our churches are unable to attend worship, through sickness, we offer home communions monthly. David Brooks (Reader) headed this up until December 2021 when Fr Sam Fletcher took over. When possible, we visit members in hospital and link patients with the hospital/hospice chaplaincy departments. There is a weekly prayer list for the sick and those in difficulty. Church members support one another by visiting each other and offering lifts to services and events.

Our clergy conducted 39 funerals this year in church and at the crematorium.

## **ST GILES' MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

The Covid-19 restrictions during 2021 once again severely affected the St Giles Centre in terms of room bookings, user numbers and income.

Government guidelines continued to be followed throughout the year and documentation relating to Covid-19 Operational Procedures and risk assessments relating to the activities of user groups and organisations were updated accordingly to ensure the continued safety of all people using the Centre.

During the first 8 months of the year the Centre was rarely used due to further restrictions within the Tier system and the subsequent second lockdown at the beginning of the New Year. The weekly Lunch with Us meals service was however able to continue providing a limited takeaway service throughout 2021 (weekly average of 54 meals to 23 people served by 7.5 volunteers) and the weekly Citizens Advice sessions were able to recommence from April. A Care Training course was also held in April and a newly formed Five Towns Veterans Support Hub also commenced at this time under strict safety measures and practices. Unfortunately, the Hub was unable to attract sufficient numbers and ceased to operate after only 3 months.

The Extend Chair Exercise weekly classes recommenced in June and the monthly Wakefield District Sight Aid Support Group meetings recommenced in August but unfortunately were suspended in November due to low numbers which will be reviewed in March 2022.

In September the Wakefield Recovery & Wellbeing College held two courses (Freedom from Fibromyalgia and Understanding Eating Disorders) and the South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Trust Core Team East, based at Baghill House Pontefract, made a 12-month booking for meetings of a Psychotherapy group. Other new bookings in September included monthly meetings of the Pontefract Readers Group, the annual meeting of the Wakefield District Cycling Forum, Pontefract Choral Society Rehearsals, St Giles Knit & Natter Fundraiser event and the welcome return of Tiddlywinks.

In November the South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Trust Core Team East made a further 9-week booking for their Mindfulness+ group meetings and the Art Café group recommenced its fortnightly booking on Friday afternoons.

In December the Wakefield Recovery & Wellbeing College held a Christmas Rag Wreath Workshop and there was a welcome return of the Pontefract Choral Society with their Christmas concert.

The year saw the loss of two regular long-standing bookings – Slimming World and Pontefract Art Club. Following the end of the initial lockdown in 2020 the lack of sufficient space within the Centre for their activities to meet subsequent social distancing requirements resulted in both organisations seeking alternative venues. With the subsequent easing of restrictions, it was hoped Slimming World would return, however, its decision to remain at its new venue was disappointing and constitutes a severe financial loss to the Centre.

The Government funding under the Small Business Grants and Localised/Additional Restrictions Support Grants administered by Wakefield Council received by the Centre in 2020 was not available in 2021 to alleviate the loss of income caused by the various restrictions imposed throughout the year. However, the *Nova Live Well Grant - Coronavirus Resilience* of £4850 received from Wakefield Council in September 2020 covered a 12-month period and so provided on-going financial assistance with the costs of signage and equipment to support social distancing, provision and maintenance of sanitising stations, loss of room rental, staffing costs and costs of cleaning materials until the end of August 2021.

Irrespective of grant income the room rentals in 2021 amounted to £4463 which was slightly less than the previous year and 65% down on 2019.

The Centre Management Committee was unable to hold face to face meetings due to Covid-19 lockdowns and restrictions during the first half of the year, however, bi-monthly reports covering finance, room bookings, Foodshare/Food Pantry, Lunch with Us and grants were circulated and conferred via email. Face to face meetings were held in September and November. Following two very austere years it was agreed to review the 3-Year Strategy Map to focus on increasing the usage and promotion of the Centre and to seek an independent external review of its current management.

The Centre Committee continues to oversee the **No.6 St Giles' Food Share and Food Pantry** projects.

In November, when the one-year lease of No 6 expired, wdh offered a three-year lease. We are extremely grateful for their sustained support which has enabled continuation of two schemes to support nominated families with school-age children: the weekly Pantry Club for Chequerfield/Cobblers areas and the Holiday Food Share offered throughout Pontefract.

Food Share has previously covered the longer school holidays, but in October, the anticipated impact of withdrawal of the Universal Credit uplift led us to add a half-term holiday delivery. We plan to make half-term deliveries part of our programme in 2022 as increased costs of living will impact family budgets. Our current capacity is packing for 35-40 families per holiday scheme week including Pantry Club members. Distribution of holiday food parcels has been undertaken by a team of drivers who continue to respond to requests for help, and we are very grateful for their support. Thanks too for all the other ways in which the parish supports us.

The Pantry Club began in November 2020, and by the start of 2021, there were 12 families comprising 48 people. There have been changes in the membership, but the number of families remained stable at 12 or 13 until demand increased in November and membership rose to 17 families of 70 persons by the end of the year.

The Club continues as a weekly delivery to homes, comprising breakfasts, lunches and main meals for at least two days: some 450-500 person-meals a week. As an affordable food project, families pay a nominal weekly membership fee rather than paying for the food as such. We believe that this provides a degree of dignity for member families as well as the security of assured access to food. Most member families have avoided the necessity of crisis referral to a foodbank and this must help their emotional well-being. We continue to receive positive feedback showing that the Pantry is improving diets, helping to stretch tight budgets, and, for some, helping to relieve social isolation.

Since the autumn, No. 6 has received monthly donations from St Giles' and St Mary's congregations, and people can drop food off for us at St Giles'. These have been very welcome and it is particularly helpful that we can highlight our current needs in the Notices and magazine. Content of the FareShare delivery on a Friday morning varies, but an increased supply of perishables was the impetus for starting a Friday doorstep drop of fresh fruit and veg, including potatoes from Stringer's Farm in Stapleton. We hope to sustain the Friday deliveries and to seek volunteer drivers for these. Morrisons Community Champions have made substantial food donations to No 6, from stock and the green charity bags. Also, the produce managers have put expiring perishable food aside for us when shelves are restocked. We hope that we may be able to regularise this contact and to use our WMDC grant to make weekly in-store purchases of milk, breakfast juice and jam, items which are rare in FareShare deliveries.

Storage at No 6 allows us to cumulate foodstuffs so that we can provide variety from week to week as well building up stocks ready for holiday food provision. However, current storage on shelving units, table-tops and trolleys is sometimes insufficient and we are unable to display non-food items. We will explore the possibility of acquiring additional shelving to make use of the existing fitments on the shop walls. This will be paid for out of the Small Business Grant we received last year.

St Giles' Food Share is becoming well known and we are supported both by goodwill and endorsement from local people and by donations of money and food. Two ladies organised a fund-raising stall, prompted by No 6's appearances on television news, and we coordinated the article on local food-aid organisations which appeared in the December edition of Pontefract News. We are also distributing our leaflets to agencies which may be in a position to refer families to the holiday scheme. We continue to display posters about support services, community facilities and local events in the window of No 6 and we disseminate information to our families in their food parcels.

Distance and access issues arise for Pantry members in the Cobblers area and for most holiday families which means we are unlikely to develop our original plan to run No 6 as a shop at present, so we'll continue to make deliveries. In the summer and Christmas holidays, we partnered in Happy Healthy Holiday schemes, providing supper-packs to participating free school meal children on a "whole family should eat" model. We would like to offer similar cooperation in future local WMDC Happy Healthy Holidays events. We are confident that this can run in tandem with our own Holiday Food Share so that a range of support is provided to local families.

The Committee is now looking forward to a more productive 2022 and has already received a number of room hire bookings and enquiries.

- Wakefield Youth Work Team Drop-In commenced in January
- Wakefield Recovery and Wellbeing College courses in March, April, May and June
- Pontefract Choral Society concerts in March, June, November and December
- The Fairburn Singers concert in November
- An Evening with Ian McMillan (TBC)
- WEA courses commencing in April
- Mothers Union Fashion Show on 28 April
- Healing Music sessions (TBC)
- Alzheimer's Society (TBC)

All bookings will be subject to compliance with any further Covid-19 safety requirements that might be introduced in the future.

Tony Williams resigned from the committee in August 2021. The committee wishes to thank Tony for all his help and support over the last 8 years.

Thanks also are given to Ian, our caretaker, who continues to do a first rate job in a pleasant and helpful manner during an extremely difficult year for the Centre.

Committee Membership: Canon June (Chair), Vivienne Smales (Secretary), David Leigh (Treasurer), David Belford, Bill Bradley, Ulric Murray, Barbara Sessford and Joan Taylor.

Bill Bradley

Please see the Appendix for Financial accounts.

## **SOCIAL MEDIA**

2021 was a busy year for the social media. The Third Lockdown at the beginning of year meant that services continued to be live streamed on the Facebook page. Coronavirus restrictions also meant that for some of 2021 the social media was the main way that we could keep in touch with both our community and regular Church attendees.

### **Facebook**

As a result of the continued Coronavirus restrictions and especially during The Third Lockdown, the Facebook page continued to be an important way of keeping everyone together. Live streaming of our Sunday and Wednesday services continued until the end of August 2021 when the number of people attending Church in-person overtook those watching the services online as Coronavirus restrictions were eased. Jill Clapham continued to live stream Compline on Thursday evenings through out the year and, on certain occasions, services of Morning and Evening Prayer were live streamed. Compline is currently taking a break whilst Jill is on placement but will resume after Easter. The data for all the services which were live streamed has been collected seven days after the service took place and put into the three graphs below. Attendances for Sunday and Wednesday services was high during The Third Lockdown but trailed off as people returned to Church following the easing of Coronavirus restrictions. People returning to Church had some impact on attendances for Compline and other services which were live streamed but remained consistent at between 35-60 people viewing the services each week. The average online

attendance for Sunday services was 175, 78 for mid-week services and 60 for Compline and other services. The number of page likes for the Facebook page currently stands at 350 with 403 people following the page.

## Twitter

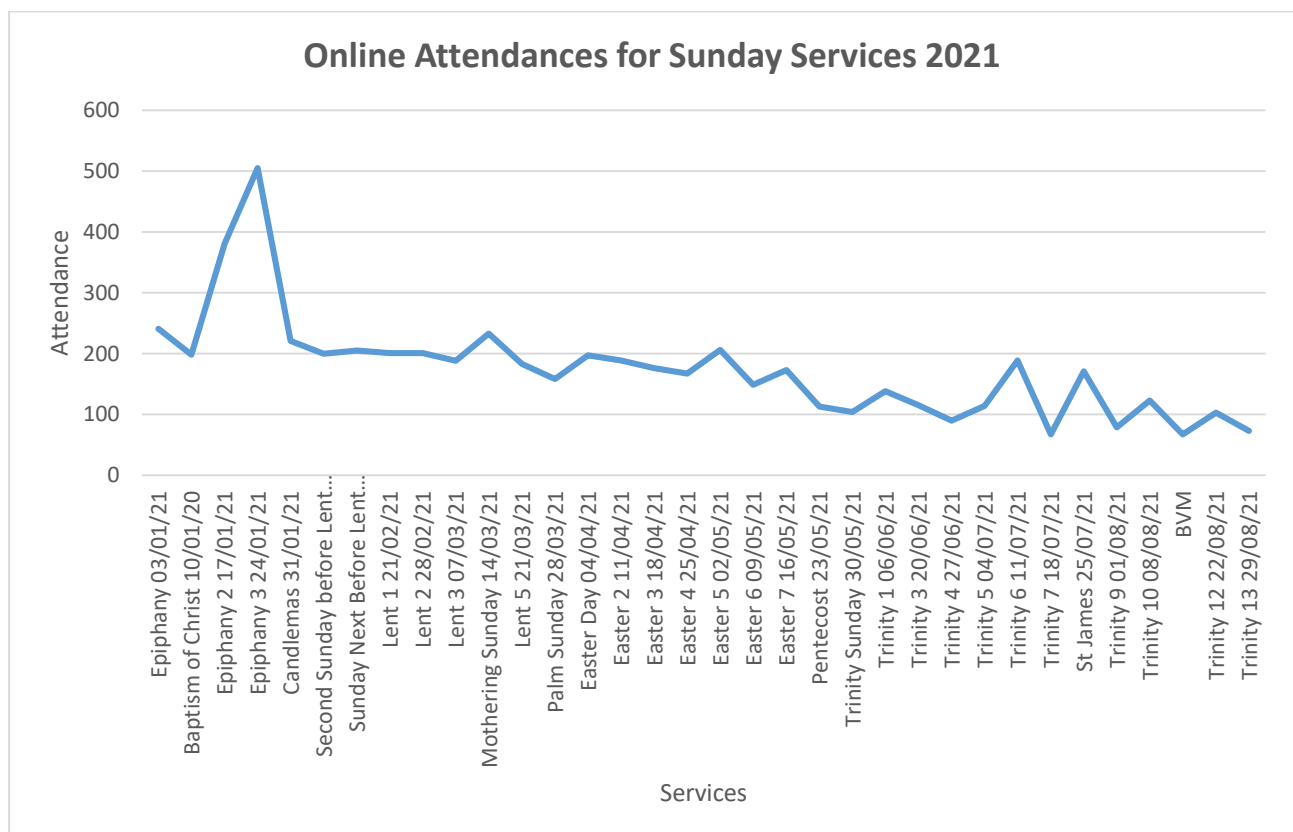
The Benefice Twitter account has also continued to grow in the last 12 months. Currently 100 people follow the Benefice on Twitter. Events and services taking place both at St Giles and St Mary's along with those taking place at All Saints' are shared on Twitter. We have formed relationships with local business, groups and schools on Twitter and some of them live and share our Tweets. We'd just like to thank the Diocese of Leeds and Church of England Twitter accounts for their encouragement through likes and shares.

## A Church Near You

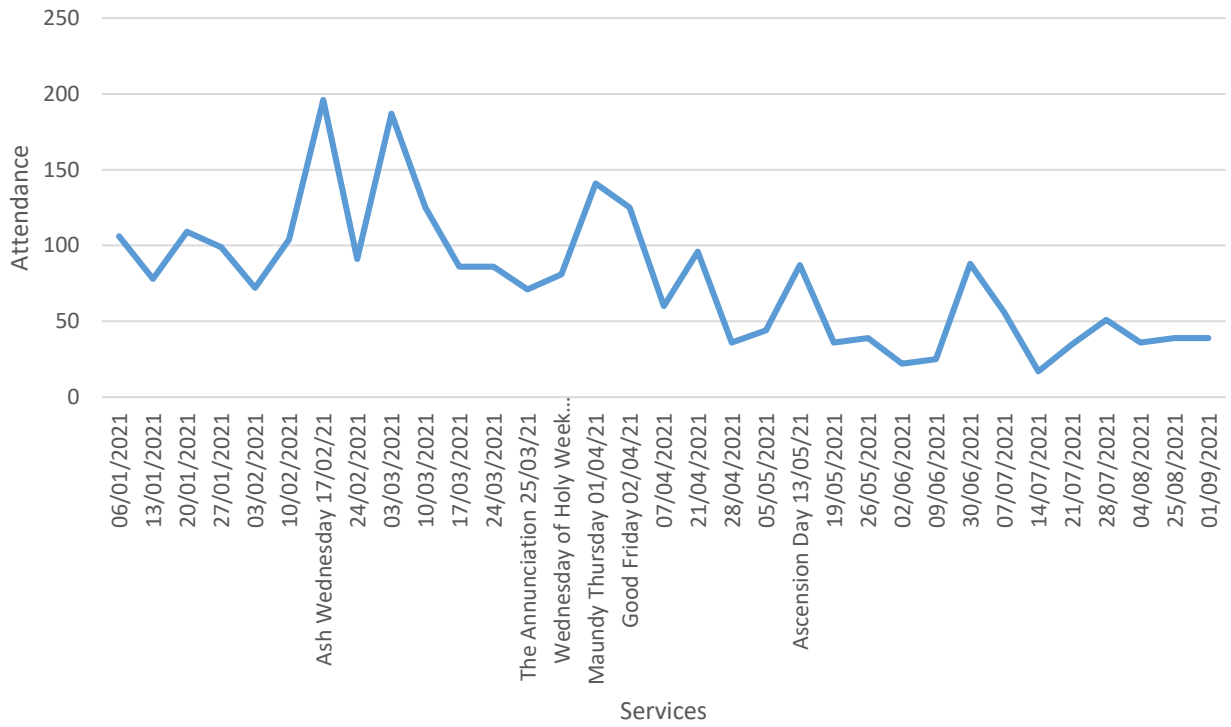
We continue to share news and events taking place both at St Giles and St Mary's on the A Church Near You website. The pages for both Churches have good visitor numbers as people have been checking the pages to see what is going in Parish. In 2021 the St Giles page had 10902 views and the St Mary's page had 5683 views. The website has recently undergone a face lift with an improve layout and new features which we're currently still getting used to but we're looking forward to taking full advantage of these going forward.

The Lockdowns gave us an opportunity to evaluate how the social media is being used now that things are returning to normal. Increased emphasis is being placed on better promotion of upcoming events and services taking place in the Parish. Church groups are actively encouraged to share news and information about their upcoming events on the social media and photos from their events where possible. So, if you have any events taking place in Church and would like to share information about when they're taking place or photos following the event to email [stgmsocialmedia@gmail.com](mailto:stgmsocialmedia@gmail.com).

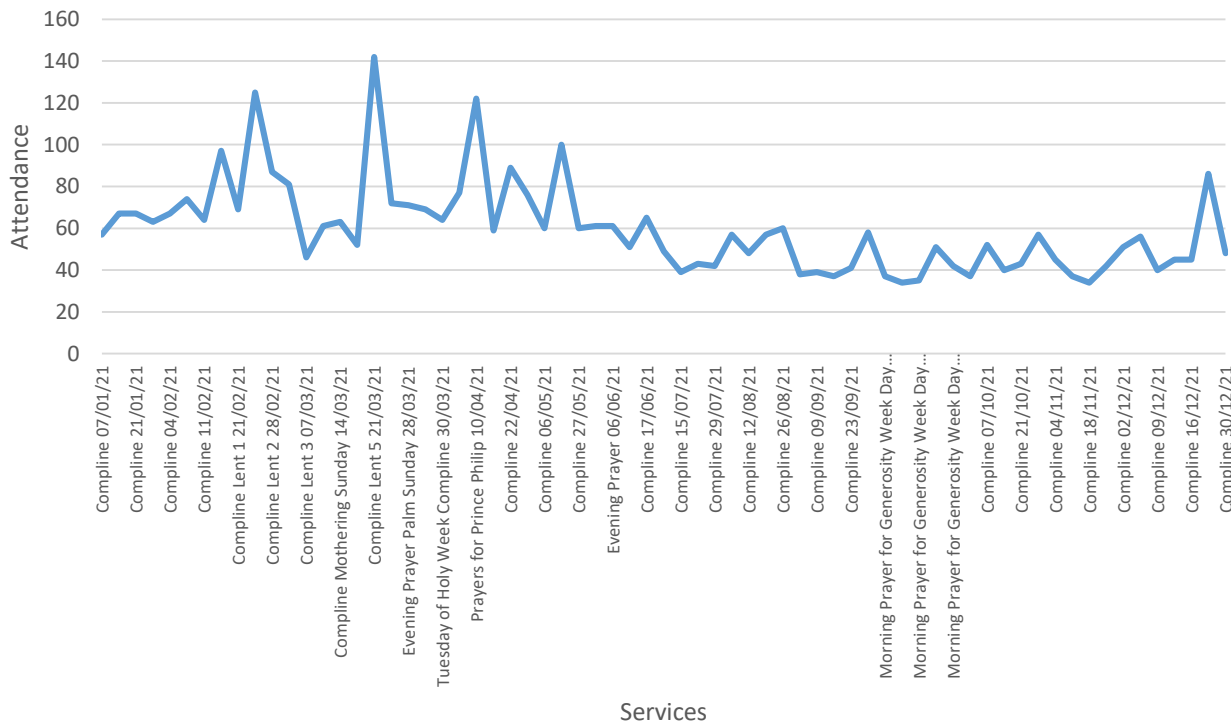
Jonathan Harris



### Online Attendances for Mid-Week Services 2021



### Online Attendances for Other Services 2021



## TIDDLYWINKS REPORT

Last year was quite difficult for our Tiddlywinks group as we were unable to meet up in church for quite some time. But when the weather prevailed we did meet and enjoy some time together in the Valley Gardens and The Castle.

When we finally resumed our usual Thursday meetings in church in September, seven of our children had moved on to school or nursery provision but surprisingly we are now back up to eighteen which is very encouraging.

We meet every Thursday 10:30 to 12 o'clock in term time for a small children's service, which includes a story, prayers and songs accompanied by noisy musical instruments.

The children then do some sort of craft activity so they have something to take home to show their parents/guardians. This is followed by playtime in the café area and refreshments. This year, thanks to the generosity of our users, we have been able to make donations to church who provide us with a warm, welcoming place for our activities.

Our resident helpers are Sandra Cutting (who also bakes for us), Jill Townsend (who is an ex-Tiddlywinks grandma), Elaine Troughton, Shelia Roydhouse and Barbara Lavine.

## **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT**

### **The Benefice of Pontefract: The Parish of St Giles with St Mary's Pontefract,**

Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31 December 2021

I report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2021 which are set out from pages 32-38.

#### ***Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner.***

- The church's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts.
- The church's trustees 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)
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

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 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 you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

#### ***Independent Examiner's statement:***

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

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act and the Regulations 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.

Name: Mr John Ransome (signed on page 32)

Address: John Ransome Accountancy Services Ltd, 21 Front St, Pontefract WF8 1DA

# ST GILES' PCC – FINANCIAL STATEMENT YEAR ENDING 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2021

## RESTRICTED FUND DETAILS AT 31.12.2021:

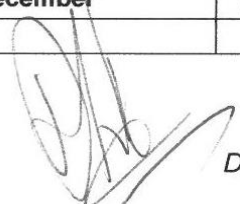
Fund	£	
Belfry	676.33	
Hardship	1421.67	
Choir	638.90	
Flower	509.47	
Junior Church	-7.52	
Missions	755.34	
Garden	-21.80	
Sanctuary	538.07	
MU Weds Coffee Fund	288.17	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4798.63</b>	

## ST. GILES' PCC

## BALANCE SHEET @ 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2021

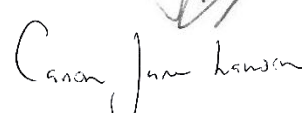
	Year End 2020		Year End 2021	
<b>Yorkshire Bank</b>	8330.54		<b>20654.20</b>	
<b>Yorkshire Bank Reserve</b>			<b>17431.43</b>	
<b>Yorkshire Building Society</b>	18131.36	26461.90	<b>1316.25</b>	<b>39401.88</b>
<b>Creditors</b>		0		0
<b>Balance at Year End (31<sup>st</sup> Dec)</b>		26461.90		<b>39401.88</b>
<b>Represented by:</b>				
<b>ACCUMULATED FUND</b>				
<b>Balance at 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021</b>	26957.49		<b>26461.90</b>	
<b>St Giles' PCC Account Surplus / Deficit</b>	(495.59)		<b>12939.98</b>	
<b>Balance at 31<sup>st</sup> December</b>	26461.90		<b>39401.88</b>	

Signed:



David Leigh, Treasurer, St Giles PCC

Signed:

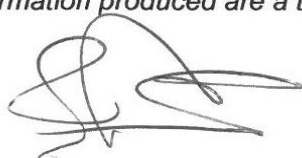


Canon Jan Lawson, Chair, St. Giles PCC

### Statement by Independent Examiner:

I certify that the above Balance Sheet and accompanying documentation with records, vouchers, receipts and other information produced are a true and accurate record.

Signed:



John Ransome (John Ransome Accountancy Services Limited)

January 2022

## ST GILES' PCC – FINAL SUMMARY of RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS 2021

<b>Income</b>	<b>Budget to Year End</b>	<b>Actual</b>
<b>Direct Giving</b>		
SO, FWO & Cash - Gift Aided	28000	29507
FWO & Cash - Not Gift Aided	3000	4456
Gift Aid Tax Refund	8000	8515
VAT Refunds	3500	13003
Job Retention Scheme (Jan - Sept)	0	2360
	42500	57840
<b>Legacies / Donations</b>		
Legacies & Donations	5000	2082
Contribution from St Giles' Centre	8800	8820
	13800	10902
<b>Weddings / Funerals / Baptisms</b>		
Fees	5000	5056
Collections	2200	1554
	7200	6610
<b>Other Income</b>		
Parish Magazine - Sales & Adverts	500	58
Printing	1500	1073
Refreshments	6000	2257
	8000	3387
<b>Fundraising</b>		
Christmas Draw (£897 Profit)	1250	
Other	450	2092
<b>St Mary's (S/Os &amp; Parish Share)</b>		4968
<b>Sundries</b>	2300	969
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>81000</b>	<b>86769</b>

<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Budget to Year End</b>	<b>Actual</b>
<b>Buildings</b>		
Insurance	4700	4704
Repairs & Renewals	2800	4512
	7500	9216
<b>Utilities</b>		
Electricity	2200	2033
Gas	2800	3602
Water	700	247
Phones & Internet	800	768
<b>Administration</b>		
Clergy Expenses	2000	1971

Funeral Fees	1500		851	
Staff Wages	15500		15615	
		25500		25087
<b>Publishing</b>				
Photocopier Rental & Printing	3000		1817	
Stationery	2000		673	
		5000		2490
<b>Worship</b>				
Organist	6000		5475	
Organ	1500		1276	
		7500		6751
<b>Mission</b>				
Common Fund (G £50574, M £4398)	50500		42328	
Major Projects (Bells)	6000		5855	
		56500		48183
<b>St Mary's (S/Os &amp; Parish Share)</b>		5500	5464	
<b>Sundries</b>				
Refreshments	1000		174	
FWO & GA Envelopes	200		Stationery	
Misc.	1300		2681	
		2500		8319
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>110000</b>		<b>100045</b>

**Budget to  
to Year End**

**RECEIPTS FROM ST MARY'S 2021**

2021 Parish Share Contribution	4400	
Standing Orders & Misc. Payments	1100	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>5500</b>

**PAYMENTS FROM ST MARY'S 2021**

2021 Parish Share to LDBF	4400	
St. Orders & Misc. Payments to St Mary's	1100	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>5500</b>

	Budget	Actual
<b>TOTAL ST GILES PCC RECEIPTS</b>	<b>81000</b>	<b>86768.89</b>
<b>TOTAL ST GILES PCC EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>110000</b>	<b>100045.04</b>
<b>SUM OF RECEIPTS AGAINST PAYMENTS 2021</b>		<b>-13276.15</b>
<b>Net Cash Transfers 2021</b>		<b>26216.13</b>
<b>TOTAL CASH SURPLUS 2021</b>		<b>12939.98</b>

**Current State of Accounts:**

Yorkshire Building Society	1316.25	
Yorkshire Bank 31st December 2021	96068.44	(£75414.24 invested)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>97384.69</b>	
Doreen Leach Legacy	94960.04	
Other Restricted Funds	4798.63	
External Repairs Fund	-1951.14	

**Notes:**

Income

The Gift Aid refund has been received (£8515.94)

VAT refund (May 2021) has been received (£3886.82)

We received payments from the Job Retention Scheme in 2020 (April to December)

Total received from HMRC to the end of 2020 is £ 4157.31

Total received in 2021 is £2360.29 (Jan to Sept). The scheme has now ended.

50% share has been transferred to the Centre account.

Significant variations in income from Budget to year end 2021

Gift Aided FWO & Cash	£0
Non Gift Aided FWO & Cash	£1,500
Funeral Fees	£0
Baptism & Funeral Collections	-£600
Printing (Magazines / Bulletins)	-£1,000
Refreshments	-£4,000
Fundraising (inc. Christmas Draw)	£400
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>-£3,700</b>

### Parish Share

12 x £3k paid monthly throughout the year.

The PCC agreed that we pay off 85% of this year's share so a further £6328 was transferred to LDBF in December.

St Mary's paid their share in full

### Money Transfers

£30k was transferred from the Investment account to the PCC current account to cover extra expenditure.

The remaining £75414.24 was reinvested at Yorkshire Bank (0.4% AER)

A further £20k was transferred from the YBS account in August so that the work on the South Nave Roof could be paid off in full (£52,563.42).

### South Nave Roof

This work has been completed.

All five grants have now been received. £2250 from All Churches Trust, £4k from the Garfield Weston Foundation, £6k from YHCT, £4k from NCT and £8k from the Wolfson Foundation.

The VAT refund (Dec 2021) has been claimed back and £9116.25 has been received.

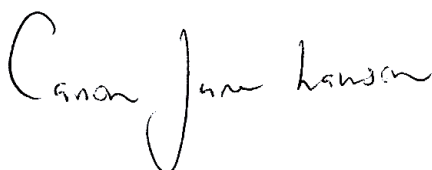
The remaining £19,552.85 was drawn from Doreen's Legacy.



**DJL**  
**31st December 2021**

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**Approved on behalf of the PCC by**



**Revd Canon June Lawson, Vicar and PCC Chair.**

**St Giles' Church Pontefract**

**Summary of St Giles' Centre Accounts 2021**

**Income**

Room Rentals	£ 3,570	(£3,360 in 2020)
Grants (WMDC)	£ 4,300	
JRS Refund	£ 1,180	
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£ 9,050</b>

**Expenditure**

Part Time Caretaker (50% of wage)	£ 3,648	
Part Time Parish Administrator (10% of wage)	£ 852	
Contribution to Utilities	£ 4,320	
Lift Maintenance & Repair	£ 1,159	
Alamo Annual Maintenance Contract	£ 0	
Pontefract In Bloom	£ 250	
Covid Materials (Hand Sanitizer, Disinfectant etc)	£ 1,011	
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>£ 11,240</u></b>

Trading Loss 2021 **(£ 2,190)**

St Giles' Centre Bank Balance at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021 £ 6,008.21  
(of which £1170.32 belongs to Lunch With Us)

DJL January 2022

## **Lunch with Us Account Summary 2021**

Despite the lockdowns during 2021, Lunch With Us was able to operate throughout the year despite the café area being closed thanks to our dedicated team of volunteers.

2813 meals were served during the year, an average of 54 per week.

The venture had a turnover of £ 1440 in 2021 and showed a small profit of £17.

Cash donations did not match expenditure however and £ 550 was transferred from the LwU bank account to balance the books.

Lunch With Us had a positive bank balance of £ 1170.32 as at December 31<sup>st</sup> 2021.

A big thank you to all who devote their time to this very worthwhile venture.

DJL

January 2022



**ST MARY'S INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2021**

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>Balance in bank</b>	751.64	4179.95	Parish share	4398.00	4398.00
<b>Balance in savings account</b>	12481.64	12455.96	Donation to children's society Christmas Eve service	30.5	42.00
<b>Collections cash</b>	632.16	291.24	Gifts	50.00	
<b>FWO</b>	570.00	300.00			
<b>Christmas Eve service</b>	30.50	42.00	Flowers	16.00	15.00
<b>Coffees</b>	88.8	218.40	Magazines		102.00
<b>Donations, /tax relief</b>	496.09	130.00	Miscellaneous		14.95
<b>/Individuals</b>		60.00			
<b>For D Brooke's</b>	40.00		Harvest boxes	60.00	
<b>Church magazines</b>		102.00			
<b>Harvest</b>	60.00				
<b>Grand draw</b>	194.3		Balance on current account	2308.99	751.64
<b>Fundraising</b>			Balance on savings account	8482.56	12481.64
<b>Interest on savings account</b>	0.92	25.68			
<b>Total</b>	<b>15346.05</b>	<b>17805.23</b>		<b>15346.05</b>	<b>17805.23</b>
<p>On the 31st December 2021 there was a balance of £2308.99 in the current account and a balance of £8482.56 in the savings account. There are no outstanding invoices.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Audited 26/01/22</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p>					