THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST OSWALD SOWERBY

England & Wales · Charity number 1135485

Details

Other names	ST OSWALD'S PCC, SOWERBY
Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2010-04-13
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	1 Hawthorne Terrace Bagby Thirsk YO7 2PQ
Phone	01845597058
Email	trustees@stoswaldsowerby.org.uk
Website	www.stoswaldsowerby.org.uk

Activities

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

Activities: The activities encompass those normally associated with those of a church in the Church of England. In addition, St Oswald's derives income from its Parochial Hall, through a parish magazine - Sowerby Now - in association with the Methodist Church and through a luncheon club for the elderly.

Classification

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

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Geography

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

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£174,341	£174,497	-	-
2023-12-31	£149,635	£142,235	-	-
2022-12-31	£167,120	£165,689	-	-
2021-12-31	£140,619	£133,067	-	-
2020-12-31	£122,632	£122,311	-	-

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Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Andrew McCormack		2019-04-14
Ann Elizabeth Harrison		2025-05-05
DAVID BROOKE		2018-03-13
David John Tucker		2026-04-26
Edward James Buckingham		2024-04-21
Elizabeth Margaret Harrison		2024-04-21
GRAHAM CHARLES MERRIAM		
HELEN MARGARET IRVING		2017-04-09
Jane Jackson		2020-11-22
Kathleen Reynard		2026-04-26
Morna Stoakley		2015-04-19
PAULINE ALDERSON		2011-08-25
Rev David Biggs		2021-07-31
Robyn Anne Miller		2026-04-26
Sarah Niemen		2026-04-26
Simon Clifford Birkbeck MA		2017-04-09
Susan Binns		2017-04-09
Vivienne Lorraine Chapman		2025-05-05

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THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST OSWALD SOWERBY

England & Wales - Charity number 1135485

Accounts

ST OSWALD'S SOWERBY

Annual report 2024

Parochial Church Council of St Oswald's Sowerby
Annual Trustees Report for the year ended 31 December 2024

Incumbent: Revd David Biggs (Priest-in-Charge)
Assistant Priest: Revd Pauline Percy (retired June 2024)
Independent Examiner: Mr Barrie Cross, ACA
Bankers: HSBC Independent Financial Advisor: Ellis Bates Group
Church Architect: David Beaumont
Website: www.stoswaldsowerby.org.uk Facebook: www.facebook.com/stoswaldsowerby

Administrative information

St Oswald's Church is situated in Sowerby in North Yorkshire. It is part of the Diocese of York within the Church of England. The current correspondence address is: The Vicarage, The Close, Sowerby, YO7 1JA PCC is a registered charity; number 1135485.

Members of the Parochial Church Council

Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. In 2024 the APCM was on 21 April 2024. During the year the following served as members of the PCC:

Churchwardens (*ex officio*):	David Tucker (joint Vice Chair) (retired May 2024)
	Simon Birkbeck (joint Vice Chair)
Priest-in-Charge (*ex officio*):	Revd David Biggs
Assistant Priest (*ex officio*):	Revd Pauline Percy
Reader:	David Brooke
Children and Youth Minister:	Rachel Halkyard
Authorised Lay Ministers:	Helen Irving
	Yvonne Bowling
Deanery Synod (*ex officio*):	Sue Binns
	Jan Applegarth

Elected Members from 21 April 2024

Retiring 2025	Yvonne Bowling
	Andrew McCormack
	Cecily Rands
Retiring 2026	Helen Irving (Standing Committee)
	David Brooke
	Jane Jackson (Secretary – Standing Committee)
	Jill Drew
	Gayle Hartley

Retiring 2027	Morna Stoakley Liz Harrison Ed Buckingham Wayne Sedgwick
Co-opted	Graham Merriam (Treasurer – Standing Committee) Rachel Halkyard (Children and Youth Minister - Standing Committee) Pauline Alderson (Deputy Church Warden - Standing Committee)

Structure, governance and management

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a corporate body established by the Church of England. It operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is registered as a separate charity with the Charity Commission.
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.

In normal circumstances the full PCC meets six times a year, or more as needed. The PCC is supported by the Standing Committee, consisting of Churchwardens, Treasurer and Secretary and Children and Youth Minister. In addition, there are a few working groups which report to PCC. Our Deanery Synod Representatives attend meetings during the year and report back to the PCC.
A special combined meeting of the PCCs of St Oswald Sowerby, All Saints Thirkleby, St Mary's Kilburn, St Cuthbert's Sessay and St Mary's Bagby took place on 9th March 2025

Objectives of the PCC

St Oswald's PCC worked with the Priest-In-Charge, the Rev David Biggs, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also responsible for the management and maintenance of Sowerby Parochial Hall and Annexe. The Church, the Parochial Hall and the Annexe are normally well-used and valued community assets and a base for our service to members of the congregation and wider outreach to the parish as a whole.

Our Mission

At St Oswald's our vision is that we seek to Love God, Build Community and Serve Sowerby. Our vision leads our mission to be committed to loving God wholeheartedly in prayer and worship, building a welcoming, supportive, and discipleship focused community, and all with a heart to serve the people of Sowerby with the compassion and grace of God.

Priest in Charge's Report

"Come, all you who are thirsty,
come to the waters;
and you who have no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without cost." – Isaiah 55:1

This quote from Isaiah is part of a passage that the PCC looked at together in 2024, it helped us to understand the radical generosity and love that God has for us his people. Isaiah 55 in all of its rich beauty I see as a great reflection of our vision and life of our church. I see St Oswald's as a place where people come to know that they are loved by God, that they are welcome, where they go deeper in their faith, where they use their gifts for God's glory and where they grow in their discipleship so that others too can discover all that they have found. Throughout 2024 we have sought to live out our vision, by growing in our Love for God, Building Community and Serving Sowerby, so that many more people will come to know Jesus.

St Oswald's has continued to grow in our love for God through 2024. We have embedded our pattern of Sunday worship to now regularly include a Family Holy Communion on a 4th Sunday. Across our Sunday worship we have seen steady growth in numbers attending, across all ages. To help us grow in loving God, we have continued to enjoy sung worship, with both traditional hymns and learning new songs of worship. Our teams of service leaders, lay ministers and retired clergy, have helped to lead our worship creatively, and also have challenged and encouraged us all through their preaching and leading. Our desire as a church is for all ages to grow in their love for God, and it has been brilliant to see our children and young people join in with worship, and grow in their love for God through their activities. We have engaged in a preaching series thinking about how we Be with Jesus, Become like him and Do as he did. This challenged us to think about our own spiritual disciplines and how we are growing in our faith.

We have seen community being built especially through the Thursday house group meeting in Orchid house. This has been complimented by a shared Lent course led by Revd David Bacon on Christian Mindfulness, and then at Christmas we gathered for advent groups reflecting on Carols. As a church family the year was punctuated with moments that allowed us to build up our community, with Celidhs, Agape Meal, Summer Socials, Working Parties, Soup Lunch and many others beside. During 2024 we ran an Alpha course in partnership with St Mary's Thirsk, welcoming along 8 guests. In June 2024 we said farewell to Revd Pauline and Howard, as they retired from ministry. It was good to gather all together at All Saints' Thirkleby to celebrate Pauline's ministry and pray for them as they started this next chapter.

St Oswald's longs to serve the people of Sowerby and share the good news of Jesus with them. It was especially great to celebrate the 2nd Birthday of the Warm Welcome Soup Lunch in 2024. With over 40 regular guests, it is a blossoming ministry reaching out into our community. Alongside this we have continued to welcome in the community for weddings, funerals and baptisms. A particular highlight of 2024 was our Christmas celebrations welcoming in hundreds of local people to celebrate the good news of Christmas. 2024 saw the beginning of building plans for reordering parts of St Oswald's so that we can better function with our growing team and welcome in our community more freely.

A big thank you is due to Revd Richard Grant, who covered my paternity leave at the start of 2024. Also to Revd Sandra Howells, David Brooke, the Worship for All team, Early Worship team, and all the retired clergy covering services in our sister parishes.

Revd David

Children, Youth and Families Ministry

After starting in post at the end of 2023 Rachel Halkyard continued settling into the paid role as Children, Youth and Families Worker in 2024. Having initially started the job on a six month trial basis, this was changed to a permanent contract in June 2024 and the job title changed to Children Youth and Family Minister at the end of the six months trial.

The children youth and families work continues to be made possible by a large number of dedicated and skilled volunteers who work tirelessly to enable the good news of Christ to be spread to the children, young people and families in the local area.

Summary of the activities that have run in 2024

Little Wonders

Little Wonders parent and toddler group continued to meet on Monday mornings during term time in the Parochial Hall. This group is run by a dedicated group of volunteers from St Oswald's, Sowerby Methodist Church and the Salvation Army.

The group continued to thrive with an average of 31 children and 27 parents and carers attending on a weekly basis. Feedback from parents and carers is overwhelmingly positive about this group. It is a very valued resource within our community.

A joint summer trip and picnic to Monk Park Farm with the Little Ark toddler group from St Mary's and the Nurture parent and baby group was enjoyed by all who attended.

Open the Book (OTB)

Due to changes in the way Open the Book is run, requiring all existing volunteers to update their training, and also as an opportunity to offer Open the Book to more schools in the south Mowbray Deanery, an in person training day was arranged at Saint Oswald's church in October 2024. Around 30 people attended this training which has enabled all current volunteers to have their training renewed and also a significant number of new volunteers to receive training.

Open the Book continues to visit four local primary schools, providing each of these schools with 12 Open the Book assemblies per year. This results in more than 400 local school children hearing Bible stories regularly in their schools.

Feedback from children and staff at the schools who receive the assemblies is overwhelmingly positive. The children love the interactive nature of the assemblies and are always keen to take part when invited.

We are currently in conversation with a number of additional primary schools about ~~hosting~~ providing Open the Book assemblies for them and we anticipate starting in these additional schools from September 2025.

Sunday Morning Kids Club

Kids Club meets on a weekly basis during the 10.30am service during term time. A group of committed volunteers enable Kids Club to happen. It has been a joy to have some new volunteers come forward to help with Kids Club in 2024.

On the first two Sundays of the month Kids Club is Godly Play which is hosted in the Godly play room and run in partnership with Sowerby Methodist Church. The third Sunday per month is our

Worship for All service when the children stay in church to worship together with the adults. For the 4th and 5th Sunday it is Family Communion With Kids Club provision for part of the service. For these sessions we use material from Roots or Forest Church type activity.

On a weekly basis Kids Club has between 8 and 16 children attending with all children age 3 – 11 years being welcome. Children under three years can attend but need a parent or guardian with them.

Worship for All Team

The Worship for All team runs the third 10.30 service per month at St Oswald's. The team is formed of a large number of volunteers from the church community and is a service the young people are often involved in.

Efforts are made to make the service inclusive to all, a service that families and people unfamiliar with "church" can feel comfortable in. Baptism families and couples preparing for marriage are encouraged to attend a Worship for All service as part of their preparation. Music for the service is usually provided by the band, a music group with a variety of instruments and a wide age range including several children and young people.

The Worship for All service is well attended and very well received by the church community.

Youth Group

Youth group meets on a Sunday evening 6:30 to 8:00 PM during term time. The group is run by a committed group of volunteers and is open to all young people in school years 6 to 13. Around 25 young people are connected to Saint Oswald's youth group with an average weekly attendance of about ten young people.

The group aims to provide a mixture of time for biblical teaching and opportunities for the for young people to grow in their faith and relationship with God, and also time to socialise and build friendships.

In addition to the weekly youth group sessions the youth were also offered the opportunity to participate in the York Diocese GROW programme which offered four evening teaching sessions and two day sessions throughout 2024. Seven young people from Saint Oswald's youth group attended and completed this programme. Feedback from the young people who completed it has been very positive.

Messy Church

Messy Church continued to run over 2024. Three Messy Churches were provided, Good Friday, "Follow the Light Night" as an alternative to Halloween and Christingle. Messy Church is run by a team of committed volunteers and continues to be well attended and very well received by the families who attend.

Summer Fruits

Summer Fruits was a series of sessions run over the school summer holidays for families.

The volunteers running the sessions were gathered from St Oswald's, St Mary's and Sowerby Methodist Church and the sessions were hosted at the Parochial Hall and also East Thirsk Community Hall.

Based loosely on a messy church model families gathered for a number of crafts or activities with some bible teaching and worship as part of the session. During the sessions refreshments were

provided. The sessions were well attended and well received by families, with many families coming to several sessions.

Family Camp

Family camp, a diocesan weekend for families at Wydale Hall ran again in 2024 with two families from St Oswald's attending.

CandY News

At the start of 2024 CandY news was started. It is a term time weekly newsletter sent out to all families on the CandY mailing list. The newsletter consists of a short thought/teaching message and information on the events running for children, young people and families at St Oswald's and the south Mowbray Deanery. The aim has been to have one point of information for families. About 120 contacts are on the mailing list and feedback from families who receive it has been positive.

Giving, Mission and Community

We continued to support Jigsaw Kids Ministries in the Philippines through regular gifts to CMS (to support their mission partner Tim Lee) and to Jigsaw directly. We were inspired to hear from Tim Lee at a service on 1st September about the ways in which Jigsaw had continued its ministry to underprivileged and street children in Metro Manila and their plans to further develop their ministries. We are pleased to actively support their project to provide practical gifts of healthcare items and sewing materials.

Warm Welcome Lunches continue to take place on Friday lunchtimes from 12 noon in the Parochial Hall. These are intended to provide a place for people to come where it is warm and welcoming and to have a simple lunch. The lunches are free. A rota of helpers is organised by Pauline Alderson to ensure this happens. Special thanks are due to Penny Merriam and Sandra Howells who cook the soups and source the ingredients. We are grateful for the generosity of those who contribute financially.

We regularly support Thirsk Community Works (CW) in their service to the wider community. Our harvest gifts and occasional offerings on special services (e.g., Christmas) have been given to them. We also give from the generous donations of those who attend the Friday lunches. We also have a box in church available for non-perishable food donations towards their food bank.

Pastoral work

Informal Pastoral Care

At St Oswald's Pastoral Care is seen as a way of showing our love and support for each other and is part of the ethos of our church family and therefore the responsibility of all church members. Unfortunately it became clear early in 2024 that some people had 'slipped through the net' and for one reason or another had struggled with problems without anybody offering support.
Under the leadership of David Brooke a small group put together a list of all regular attenders at St Oswald's and approached twenty people who might offer to to keep in contact with designated individuals informally, in person or by telephone, and to ask each person if this would be appreciated. The idea of this friendly extra support system was generally received well and is now in place.
Many members of our church family visit elderly or ill friends and help them by offering lifts and help with shopping and gardening.

Formal Pastoral Care

Yvonne Bowling and Cecily Rands have taken Holy Communion to groups of residents at Meadowfields, Orchid House and The Limes monthly.
Holy Communion has also been taken to individuals in Care Homes and in their own homes on a regular basis.

Hospitality

At the end of December Margaret Turner retired from the Sunday Tea & Coffee rota. Many thanks Margaret for your hard work and dedication in over 50 years.
Liz Harrison has taken on the role and has made recent requests for new volunteers to be involved in providing refreshments after Sunday worship. The response has been very good. There is now a rota with sufficient regulars devoting one Sunday a month and a handful of extra helpers to assist at busy times or when regulars are on holiday. Thank you all, it is very much appreciated. If you feel able to help in anyway whatsoever please contact Liz. All are welcome.

Prayer Circle

There are 49 people active on our Prayer Circle, there is a representative from each of the five parishes who will pass on to their congregation where necessary. It could be used more, not just bad news but also good news to be shared and give thanks for. Prayer gives one hope, and is very important in our church of St Oswald's.

Brass Cleaning

The brasses in church are cleaned each month by two volunteers. There is a rota for this pinned up by the treasury where there is also a list of brasses to be cleaned. We have six pairs of volunteers which means that each couple are only called on twice a year. Thank you to those who give their time.

Parish and Community Events

We have continued to hold various parish and community events throughout the year. Alongside this a number of groups use St Oswald's to host concerts and other events.
Throughout the summer, summer socials were once again organised as a way to build community over the quieter summer months.
The regular Warm Welcome soup lunch has continued.
Coffee, Cakes and Crafts was held in the Parochial Hall in November 2024.
A public service on Remembrance Sunday, 10 November, took place at the war memorial and the church was beautifully decorated with flowers and the outside walls with knitted and crocheted poppies. We were able to host a full program of Easter and Christmas services celebrating the good news of Jesus with our community.
Many thanks to Barbara Thornton and her team for continuing to provide flower arrangements and to Kath Reynard for tending the outdoor planters.

Farming Chaplaincy

Yvonne Bowling continued her work as an assistant chaplain working under Rev Dianne Gamble to provide support to the farming community at the Auction Mart located in the parish.

Mothers Union

Last year during our branch meetings we had a number of guests giving a variety of talks including - Family Law, Garden Pests, Ecclesiastical Embroidery, The. Month of April , the Franciscans, and Women of the Nativity.
We enjoyed a lunch together at Thirsk Garden Centre and journeyed to Ripon cathedral where we were given a tour and entertained to tea by Ripon MU. Our fund raiser last year was Marske Fisherman's Choir a concert at St Oswald's and our Wave of prayer service. was Transformation Now and included links to 5 African Diocese.

Ecumenical relations

St Oswald's values the covenant with the Methodist Church. A joint Christmas card with the Methodist Church was distributed using the delivery team. The children and youth team have continued to work ecumenically especially around the provision of God Play and Open the Book. We particularly enjoyed sharing our Agape meal on Maundy Thursday together.

Safeguarding

This past year has been a busy one for Gayle and I .

We have successfully processed a number of DBS checks for new church volunteers and new volunteer members of the children and young people's team. This naturally is very encouraging, and it is a joy to see our church growing.
Processing the DBS check is quite straightforward and almost the easy part ; encouraging people to complete their Safeguarding training can be trickier.
I have enjoyed my two years as PSO for St Oswald's and the Rural Churches however I am very aware that there is much I haven't done and due to personal circumstances don't have the time to do. So, it is with a lot of thought and prayer that I have resigned my role and will step down in the coming months.
I would just like to say a huge Thank you to Gayle, I really couldn't have done what I have done without her and a Thank you to Rev David for all his support and understanding.

Thank you and God Bless
Mandy

Deanery Synod

The Synod usually meets three times a year. Some of the meetings are open to all members of the congregations in the Deanery such as the meetings held in recent years to propose and discuss the future reorganisation of the Deanery.
Of the three sessions held this last year, one particularly interesting session gave the synod representatives the opportunity to meet and hear from lay members who, with the guidance of a mentor, had widened and developed their interests and skills to provide a ministry in their own churches. The most recent session of 2024 was an interesting one with Bishop Barry.
The Deanery Leadership team has continued to progress the proposed deanery re-organisation and a formal consultation is now in process which is requesting feedback from all the PCCs about the proposals. As part of the reorganisation, Sowerby would revert to becoming a single parish while Sessay, Kilburn, Bagby and Thirkleby would become part of the new benefice of the South

Mowbray Rural Parishes. The parish of Sowerby at the same time will be a hub providing help and resources for the rural parishes in the wider area of the southern deanery.

Financial review

The accounts for the year show a surplus of £925 *(2023 - £8,528)*. Significant factors are a legacy of £12,000 received from the Estates of Martin and Eleanor Hooper, continued increase in Giving through Gift Aid and some large donations, including those from other local parishes, to support the work of our Children and Youth activities.
Set against this is the £64,980 that we gave to York Diocese as Freewill Offering *(2023 - £62,400)* and a full year salary to our CandY and Admin staff of £27,790 *(2023 - £7,886).* PCC Fees received were lower this year and we anticipate that this might be a continuing trend with the proximity of Maple Park Crematorium and also the increase in numbers of secular licensed wedding locations.
Costs of Fabric amount to £8,036 *(2023 - -£287)* reflecting the completion of work on the AV system and Architect's costs in drawing up a rolling plan for future development which we shall start in the Spring of 2025.
Our general overheads are in line with expectations and largely beyond our control; contracts for utilities are in place to make the best of existing and anticipated supply scenarios.
The Parochial Hall continues to make a useful surplus of £1,469 *(2023 - £2,525)* after decorating the exterior. We have to recognise that continued vigilance and maintenance are essential.
Our investments (£33,167 at 31/12/2024) continue to provide a cushion for our activities giving us both growth and income.
None of this would be possible without the continued financial support of our congregation who continue to give so generously.

Reserves Policy

It is the PCC's intention to spend those Reserves that are Restricted on their defined purposes, in due course. Unrestricted Reserves include an amount that is Designated for the Parochial Hall and the PCC aims to safeguard these for an ongoing plan of refurbishment. The remainder of Unrestricted Reserves represent approximately three months income which the PCC feels is the minimum that it should aim to hold for normal levels of activity.

The Church building, fabric, ornaments and furnishings.

1. General condition of the building.

The condition of the building is as described in the last Quinquennial Report conducted by Beaumont Brown Architects (dated March 2020). The building is in a satisfactory condition and the nature of the recommended works is relatively minor in scope and extent. The buildings support group continues to undertake minor repair works. A new Quinquennial Report (QI) is due in 2025.

2. Buildings and Facilities Support group

The support group has been established to focus on the condition of the building, its facilities and surrounds. This group reports to the PCC. We have held several working parties throughout 2024 to include the cleaning out of gutters, down-pipes and drains.

3. Goods and Ornaments

All goods and ornaments are unchanged with the exception of various items which were disposed of following the granting of a faculty (see 4. below).

4. Faculty for the removal of various items from within the church.
Various items have been removed: several shorter pews, a long pew, catafalque, red kneelers, litany desks (unused), a wall clock (unused), and notice boards (disused). All items to be disposed of were previously approved by the PCC.

5. Minor building repairs
The correction of slipped tiles (as noted on the QI report) and replacement of the door to the organ blower building were done in 2024.

6. Gas Main
The gas pipe serving the boilers was very close to the surface of the access paths. In early December 2023 there was a gas leak – possibly caused by frost and movement. We applied for and obtained an emergency faculty for a builder to come and dig a new trench in order for the gas main to be laid at a safe depth. An archaeologist from the Diocese attended the work to make sure no ancient artefacts were disturbed. In the end minimal excavation was required as the gas pipe feeding the internal boiler was found at a satisfactory depth. This is now also feeding the boiler in the boiler house and the shallow depth pipe is now redundant. The work was undertaken in early 2024.

7. Tree works.
We continued to remove a lot of undergrowth around the base of trees in the western end of the churchyard – in accordance with the Tree surgeon recommendations. We hired a chipper to chip the remains of all this work. In late 2024 a storm destabilized a Cypress Tree in the middle of the churchyard. We applied for permission for its removal (done in early 2025).

8. Installation of screens in church.
AV screens were purchased following approval of a faculty for consent to install them in church for AV display during services.

9. Routine maintenance
The usual tasks of maintenance and servicing have continued throughout 2024. These included general cleaning, organ and piano tuning, servicing of church clock, fire extinguishers and PAT testing of electrical appliances.

10. Notice Board
The outside church notice was damaged in a recent storm. The PCC have approved the purchase of a new board in 2025. This will require consent

Thanks

Grateful thanks are expressed to all at St Oswald's who have worked so hard, sometimes in different ways from normal, and with so much dedication for the benefit of the church and wider community.

May we continue to love God and our neighbours near and far as we seek to serve Christ in this place. We remember that our hope is always in Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

Approved by the PCC on 10th March 2025, and signed on their behalf.

Simon Birkbeck	Rev David Biggs
Churchwarden	Priest-in-charge

Love God.
Build Community.
Serve Sowerby.

Parochial Church Council of St Oswald's Church, Sowerby

Accounts

For the year ended

31 December 2024

Registered Charity Number 1135485

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Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of The Parochial Church Council of The Ecclesiastical Parish of St Oswald Sowerby

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024 which are set out on pages 2 to 7.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

(1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or

(2) the accounts do not accord with those records; or

(3) the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Barrie Cross ACA
The Barker Partnership
Chartered Accountants
17 Central Buildings
Market Place
Thirsk
North Yorkshire
YO7 1HD

Date:

Parochial Church Council of St Oswald's Sowerby
Statement of Financial Activities for the Year ended 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Incoming and endowments from:				
Voluntary Income				
Giving through Gift Aid	48,884	-	48,884	46,162
Tax Refunds	16,239	-	16,239	14,959
Other planned Giving	7,987	-	7,987	7,355
Collection Plate	1,775	-	1,775	1,967
Occasional & Other Services	1,991	4,235	6,226	5,507
Donations				
General	16,551	0	16,551	7,723
Donations - General Electronic	1,373	-	1,373	783
Donations into CandY account & Gift Aid	6,510	-	6,510	6,234
Donations from other Parishes re CandY	6,700	-	6,700	1,200
Legacy Received	12,000	-	12,000	0
Wall box & Bookstall	35	-	35	52
Photocopying	32	-	32	54
	120,077	**4,235**	**124,312**	**91,996**
Other				
Fees Received				
PCC	7,924	-	7,924	9,891
Organist & Choir	1,190	-	1,190	1,190
Bell Ringers	300	-	300	140
YDBF	4,010	-	4,010	5,048
Income from Events				
Sunday Coffee	440	-	440	430
Fund Raising & Sale of Furniture	1,177	-	1,177	3,073
Hire of Church	1,468	-	1,468	1,004
CandY Activity Income	2,641	-	2,641	2,500
Recurring Grants				
Wayleave & Rent	129	-	129	122
Sowerby Parish Council	1,200	-	1,200	2,400
	20,479	**0**	**20,479**	**25,798**
Other trading activities				
Parochial Hall Income (note 13)	21,572	-	21,572	20,105
Parochial Hall Earnings from 100 Club	1,140	-	1,140	1,286
Parochial Hall Refurbishment Grants	0	-	0	3,590
Parochial Hall Donations Received	870	-	870	942
Soup Lunch Donations	0	4342	4,342	4,511
	23,582	**4,342**	**27,924**	**30,434**
Investments				
Dividends (Gross) & Bank Interest	1,626	-	1,626	1,406
	1,626	**0**	**1,626**	**1,406**
Total Incoming Resources	**165,764**	**8,577**	**174,341**	**149,634**
Expenditure on				
Charitable activities (see note 3)	**165,957**	**8,540**	**174,497**	**142,236**
Net income/(expenditure) before gains/(losses) on investments	**-193**	**37**	**-156**	**7,398**
Net gains/(losses) on investments	**1,081**	-	**1,081**	**1,150**
Net movement of Funds	**887**	**37**	**925**	**8,548**
Balances b/fwd 1 January 2024	**54,996**	**3,422**	**58,418**	**49,870**
Balances c/fwd 31 December 2024	**55,884**	**3,459**	**59,343**	**58,418**

Parochial Church Council of St Oswald's Sowerby

Note 3	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Charitable activities				
Freewill Offering	**64,980**	**0**	**64,980**	**62,400**
Salaries, Honoraria and YDBF				
YDBF	4,010	-	4,010	5,048
CandY Salaries and on-costs	21,158	-	21,158	7,886
Admin Salary	6,632	-	6,632	0
Organist and Choir - inc Occ. Services	2,130	-	2,130	2,150
Bellringers - Occ. Services	270	-	270	130
	34,200	**0**	**34,200**	**15,214**
Expenses of Clergy and CandY Staff				
Vicarage Costs	886	-	886	1,120
Mileage Allowance	376	-	376	874
Expense for CandY work	2,558	-	2,558	1,921
Gifts	85	-	85	43
Recruitment costs	0	-	0	575
Mission Outreach	9	-	9	206
Training & Resources	1,361	-	1,361	797
	5,275	**0**	**5,275**	**5,536**
Church Running Costs				
Cleaning	1,646	-	1,646	1,352
Insurance	2,451	-	2,451	2,298
Candles and Service Costs	288	-	288	477
Repairs	4,771	-	4,771	2,635
Organ	116	-	116	183
Churchyard	2,448	-	2,448	2,873
	11,720	**0**	**11,720**	**9,818**
Church Utilities				
Gas	6,626	-	6,626	3,221
Water Rates	372	-	372	180
Electricity	997	-	997	1,095
	7,995	**0**	**7,995**	**4,496**
Church Administration				
Computer, Phone & Broadband	585	-	585	3,596
Professional Fees	834	-	834	3,474
Brokerage and Commission Fees	394	-	394	378
Bank Charges	227		227	231
Licences and Subscriptions	1,718	-	1,718	1,109
Postage and Stationery	249	-	249	621
Costs of Coffee	169	-	169	0
Copier Costs	2,062	-	2,062	375
	6,238	**0**	**6,238**	**9,784**
Donations to Charities				
Overseas Mission - from own Funds	3,800	-	3,800	3,800
To Local Charities from Soup Lunches	1,600	-	1,600	1,250
Other - special and funeral collections	-	4,235	4,235	2,764
	5,400	**4,235**	**9,635**	**7,814**
Costs of generating funds				
Parochial Hall (note 13)				
Operating costs	17,979	-	17,979	16,062
Exceptional expenditure	4,134	-	4,134	7,336
Soup Lunch Costs	0	4305	4305	4,063
	22,113	**4,305**	**26,418**	**27,461**
Fabric Costs				
Architect's Fees	5,310	-	5,310	0
Fabric Costs	2,726	-	2,726	-287
	8,036	**0**	**8,036**	**-287**
Total charitable activities	**165,957**	**8,540**	**174,497**	**142,236**

Parochial Church Council of St Oswald's Sowerby
Balance Sheet
as at 31 December 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed Assets	1	**1,628**	**2,033**
Current Assets			
Investments	4	33,167	33,192
Debtors	6	4,685	2,794
Bank Accounts	7	21,668	22,125
Prepayments		0	54
Cash Balances		200	200
		59,720	**58,365**
Creditors			
Sundry Creditors		1,005	0
YDBF - admin grant received in advance		1,000	0
100 Club Deposits for following year		0	1,980
	8	**2,005**	**1,980**
Net Current Assets		**59,343**	**58,418**
Represented by:			
Unrestricted Funds	10	55,884	54,996
Restricted Funds	11	3,459	3,422
Net Funds		**59,343**	**58,418**

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on
and signed on its behalf by

1 Accounting Policies

1.1 Accounting Convention

The accounts are prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102 – (Charities SORP (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets which are shown at market value.

1.2 Funds

General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted.

The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body or those that are informal gatherings of church members.

1.3 Incoming Resources

Voluntary income and capital sources

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC. Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid is recognised only when received. Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when received. Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for when received. Funds raised by events are accounted for gross. Sales of books and magazines are accounted for gross.

Other income

Income from the Parochial Hall is recognised when due.

Income from bank investments

Bank interest entitlements are accounted for as they accrue and appear gross.

1.4 Resources expended

The diocesan parish share is accounted for when it is paid. The PCC has paid its full share within the year.

1.5 Balance Sheet – Fixed Assets

Consecrated property and moveable church furnishings

Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind is excluded from the accounts by S10(2a) of the Charities Act 2011.

Moveable church furnishings held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC, and which require a faculty for disposal, are accounted as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the church's inventory which can be inspected at any reasonable time. For inalienable property acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the accounts.

Expenditure incurred in the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings, individual items under £1000 or on the repair of movable church items acquired before 1 January 2000 is written off.

Other Fixtures and Fittings

Depreciation is provided at 10% of cost on Hall Furniture and Equipment which is calculated to write off the cost less residual value of each asset over its useful life. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £1000 or less will be written off as the asset is acquired.

2 Net Incoming/Outgoing Resources

	2024	2023
	£	£
This is stated after charging:		
Depreciation and other amounts written off tangible fixed assets	**405**	**405**
Reporting accountant's fees	**250**	**250**

4 Investments

During 2009 the Church became entitled to the Arthur Dreyheller Thompson Trust Fund following the death of the residuary life tenant. The investments are quoted in the accounts at market value as at 31st December 2024. The use of this fund is unrestricted.

5 Employment Costs

Included in employment costs are salaries paid to PCC members in their roles as the Charity's Children and Youth Workers. No employee or PCC member received emoluments of more that £60,000. (2022: None)

6 Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Hall Hire	3,011	2,463
Gift Aid on large donations	1,375	0
Due from Benefice parishes & others for administrative costs & copying	299	331
	4,685	**2,794**

7 Bank Accounts

	£	£
Church	7,201	704
Parochial Hall	792	1,851
Deposit	12,380	11,524
"Sowerby CandY" (Note 12)	1,295	8,046
	21,668	**22,125**

8 Creditors: Falling due within one year and more

	£	£
Sundry Creditors and Receipts in Advance	2,005	0
Hall 100Club – 2023 Subscriptions	0	1,980
	2,005	**1,980**

9 Analysis of Net Assets by Funds

	Unrestricted	*Restricted*	*Total*
	£	£	£
Fixed Assets	1,628	0	1,628
Current Assets	56,261	3,459	59,720
Current Liabilities	2,005	0	2,005
Fund Balance	**55,884**	**3,459**	**59,343**

10 Unrestricted Funds

Designated funds are included in unrestricted funds and are for the maintenance and improvement of the Parochial Church Hall. See note 12

11 Analysis of Restricted Funds

	1/1/2024	Movement In	Movement Out	31/12/2024
	£	£	£	£
Bells	898	0	0	898
Charity	0	4,235	4,235	0
Saints Alive	750	0	0	750
Mexico 2021 Trip	988	0	0	988
Soup Lunches	786	4,342	4,305	823
	3,422	**8,577**	**8,540**	**3,459**

Saints Alive is the residue of money handed over from the old joint Saints Alive account. The Bells account is a long-standing fund from which repairs are taken over time. Mexico 2021 is deposits taken on a proposed youth trip now deferred and held for general youth activity.

12 Sowerby CandY

This account is a joint venture between St Oswald's Church and Sowerby Methodist Church. It is a vehicle for raising money to support children's and youth work. The activity is reflected in St Oswald's accounts as a restricted fund for convenience and transparency.

13	**Parochial Hall**	**2024**	**2023**
		£	£
	Income		
	Lettings	21,572	20,105
	Earnings from 100 Club	1,140	1,286
	Refurbishment Grants/Donations Received	0	3,590
	Donations received	870	942
	Total Income	**23,582**	**25,923**
	Operating Costs for the year		
	Caretaker & Cleaner	7,072	7,072
	Cleaning Materials	359	538
	Window Cleaning	130	260
	Utilities		
	Gas	3,699	2,736
	Electricity	1,587	1,646
	Water	537	413
	Insurance	725	700
	Repairs & Maintenance		
	Miscellaneous repairs	271	921
	5 year EICR Electrical Certificate	1,126	0
	Gas certificate and boiler repairs	324	0
	Fire Protection & PAT Testing	319	321
	Hobart Dishwasher Annual Service	245	229
	Kitchen supplies/equipment	263	0
	De-fibrillator pads	80	0
	Administration		
	Hallmaster Booking System Subscription	265	0
	Professional Fees re Scout Hut ground rent	0	698
	Bank Charges	104	123
	Bad Debt	147	0
	Depreciation of Equipment	405	405
	Total Operating Costs	**17,658**	**16,062**
	Exceptional Expenditure for the year		
	Exterior Painting – Alex Watson	3,871	0
	LED lights in rear foyer	198	0
	Tree surgery on carpark trees	0	420
	Car Park entrance and fencing (2023) extra parking (2024)	386	6,348
	Annexe TV & Blinds	0	568
	Total Exceptional Costs	**4,455**	**7,336**
	Surplus for the year	**1,469**	**2,525**
	Fund Balance at 1 January 2024	**10,822**	**8,297**
	Residual Fund Balance at 31 December 2024	**12,291**	**10,822**

This fund is designated but not restricted.

Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of The Parochial Church Council of The Ecclesiastical Parish of St Oswald Sowerby

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024 which are set out on pages 2 to 7.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

(1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or

(2) the accounts do not accord with those records; or

(3) the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Barrie Cross ACA
The Barker Partnership
Chartered Accountants
17 Central Buildings
Market Place
Thirsk
North Yorkshire
YO7 1HD

Date:

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST OSWALD SOWERBY

England & Wales - Charity number 1135485

Accounts

ST OSWALD'S SOWERBY

Annual report 2023

Parochial Church Council of St Oswald's Sowerby
Annual Trustees Report for the year ended 31 December 2023

Incumbent: Revd David Biggs (Priest-in-Charge)
Assistant Priest: Revd Pauline Percy
Independent Examiner: Mr Barrie Cross, ACA
Bankers: HSBC Independent Financial Advisor: Ellis Bates Group
Church Architect: David Beaumont
Website: www.stoswaldsowerby.org.uk Facebook: www.facebook.com/stoswaldsowerby

Administrative information

St Oswald's Church is situated in Sowerby in North Yorkshire. It is part of the Diocese of York within the Church of England. The current correspondence address is: 162 Front Street, Sowerby YO7 1JG. Sowerby PCC is a registered charity; number 1135485.

Members of the Parochial Church Council

Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. In 2023 the APCM was on 14 May 2023. During the year the following served as members of the PCC:

Churchwardens (*ex officio*):	David Tucker (joint Vice Chair)
	Simon Birkbeck (joint Vice Chair)
Priest-in-Charge (*ex officio*):	Revd David Biggs
Assistant Priest (*ex officio*):	Revd Pauline Percy
Reader:	David Brooke
Recognised Parish Assistants:	Cecily Rands (retired September 2023)
(now known as Authorised Lay Ministers)	Helen Irving
	Yvonne Bowling
Deanery Synod (*ex officio*):	Sue Binns

Elected Members from 14 May 2023

Retiring 2024	Pauline Alderson
	Morna Stoakley
Retiring 2025	Yvonne Bowling
	Andrew McCormack
	Jill Drew
	Gayle Hartley
Retiring 2026	Helen Irving (Standing Committee)
	David Brooke
	Jane Jackson (Secretary – Standing Committee)
Co-opted Members	Cecily Rands
	Graham Merriam (Treasurer and Standing Committee)
	Rachel Halkyard (CandY) from December 2023

Structure, governance and management

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a corporate body established by the Church of England.

It operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is registered as a separate charity with the Charity Commission.
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.

In normal circumstances the full PCC meets six times a year, or more as needed. The PCC is supported by the Standing Committee, consisting of Churchwardens, Treasurer and Secretary and Children and Youth Minister. In addition, there are a few working groups which report to PCC. Our Deanery Synod Representatives attend meetings during the year and report back to the PCC.
Special combined meetings of the PCCs of St Oswald Sowerby, All Saints Thirkleby, St Mary's Kilburn, St Cuthbert's Sessay and St Mary's Bagby took place on 25th February 2023 and 2nd September 2023.

Objectives of the PCC
St Oswald's PCC worked with the Priest-In-Charge, the Rev David Biggs, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also responsible for the management and maintenance of Sowerby Parochial Hall and Annexe. The Church, the Parochial Hall and the Annexe are normally well-used and valued community assets and a base for our service to members of the congregation and wider outreach to the parish as a whole.

Our Mission
At St Oswald's our vision is that we seek to Love God, Build Community and Serve Sowerby.

Review of the year: Achievements and Performance
2023 has been a year of some growth and a return to some 'normality' after the impact of the Covid pandemic.

We held two joint PCC sessions with the other churches of the plurality to try and build Mission Action Plans for each church to take forward. Locally, this was to build on our stated vision to Love God, Build Community and Serve Sowerby. This work remains to be developed further.

We attempted to recruit a new Children, Families and Youth worker. We took the process through a job and person description, advertising, interviewing and offering the position to a person who would have been suitable. Due to personal circumstances however, she was unable to take up the post. Pauline Alderson agreed to continue her former role (on a reduced basis) in the interim working one day per week. We also bought in the advice of a youth adviser from the diocese in order to plan the Sunday night youth groups. Towards the end of 2023, we appointed Rachel Halkyard (a member of our church) to act as our interim Children, Families and Youth Worker. She started work in time to plan the Christmas family activities. We were very pleased to welcome back Sowerby School and Keeble Gateway Academy for their Nativity services in church before Christmas.

We continued the new 'Warm Welcome' lunches on Fridays throughout the year. This has been appreciated by a fairly regular group of mainly older people. During the year our

community social activities included a 'Coronation Big Lunch' on the Hall field and also 'Coffee Cakes and Crafts' in the Autumn in the Hall.

Our Lent Course was on the subject of 'Unanswered Prayer'. This was well attended and appreciated. We were excited to be able to hold a full-immersion adult baptism in church.

The buildings remain in good repair and we arranged for a full digital survey of the church and churchyard to enable the Architect to advise on possible future developments to make the buildings more accessible and to improve our facilities.

Grateful thanks are due to Rev Sandra Howells and other visiting and retired clergy for assisting in conducting services in church.

Children and Youth

After the sad loss of Laura Damulira at the end of 2022, Pauline Alderson returned in January for one day a week to keep the children and family work going. We held several Messy church sessions, including an Easter themed one on Good Friday which was very well attended. This attracted new families who had not had any previous connection with St Oswald's. With help from volunteers from Thirkleby, Kilburn and Bagby we held a Messy Church in Thirkleby on 22nd April. The families who attended were all new to Messy Church and appreciated the event. We returned on the 14th October to hold a second Messy Church using a Harvest theme. Some of those who attended then came along to our Follow the Light Night event at St Oswald's on 31st October and our Messy Christingle service in December. These events, along with the Crib Service on Christmas Eve, always attract and are appreciated by many families in the community.

The Open the Book teams continued to visit Sowerby, Sessay, Keeble and Topcliffe primary schools to share Bible stories twice each half term. The children and the staff always look forward to our visits.

Holiday Club took place during the first week of the summer holiday with an 'Under the Sea' theme. We shared stories from both the Old and New Testaments with the children. The team of volunteers once again excelled themselves, working together to deliver a fun-filled, action packed week for the children. Many members of the youth group took on roles, responsibilities and leadership with great enthusiasm. Lots of families attended the Holiday Club service on the Sunday morning.

Kids Club continued throughout the year with Godly Play each 1st and 2nd Sunday. This is always very popular. We greatly appreciate members of Sowerby Methodist church who lead this with support from St Oswald's helpers. Rev David introduced a Family Communion service each 4th Sunday of the month, where the children are involved in setting the communion table. There is a shortened Kids Club session during this service so the children can attend communion.

Little Wonders baby and toddler group met every Monday morning in term time and we welcomed many new families throughout the year. The group is well attended and continues to grow. Thanks are due to the team of volunteers who work hard to make people feel welcome and provide a range of activities and refreshments. Several families enjoyed a joint outing to Monk Park Farm in August with Little Ark Club from St Mary's.

The youth group has continued to meet in 2023, and continues to be well received by the young people. We started a new pattern of having a session every Sunday in term time with one session being a youth small group. Youth group would not be possible without the committed team of volunteer youth leaders who continue to invest in our young people. In December there was a trip to The Oakes, a Christian activity centre. The young people had a great time, taking part in activities and engaging in sessions exploring 'The First Christmas' and 'Who is Jesus?'

In June two families from St Oswald's attended the family weekend camp at Wydale Emmaus Centre which was organised by York Diocese. Adults and children thoroughly enjoyed the weekend and are looking forward to attending in 2024.

At the beginning of December we were delighted to welcome Rachel Halkyard as the new Children, Youth & Family worker.

Parish and Community Events

As described in the review of the year, a 'Coronation Big Lunch' on the Hall field was held on 7th May and also 'Coffee Cakes and Crafts' on 18th November in the Hall. Alongside these a summer fair was held on 15th July. The church building was used for a number of different concerts throughout the year.

A public service on Remembrance Sunday, 12 November, took place at the war memorial and the church was beautifully decorated with flowers and the outside walls with knitted and crocheted poppies. Many thanks to Barbara Thornton and her team for continuing to provide flower arrangements and to Kath Reynard for tending the outdoor planters.
Carol Singing around the Sowerby Christmas Tree took place on Tuesday 19th December and was led by Rev David Biggs.

Giving, Mission and Community

We continued to support Jigsaw Kids Ministries in the Philippines through regular gifts to CMS (to support their mission partner Tim Lee) and to Jigsaw directly. We were inspired to hear from Tim Lee at a service on 5th November about the ways in which Jigsaw was serving the communities around them in the Philippines and about lives that were being transformed through this ministry.

We have continued to host Warm Welcome Lunches. These take place on Friday lunchtimes from 12 noon in the Parochial Hall. These are intended to provide a place for people to come where it is warm and welcoming and to have a simple lunch. The lunches are free. A rota of helpers is organised by Pauline Alderson to ensure this happens. Special thanks are due to Penny Merriam, Sandra Howells and occasional others who cook the soups and source the ingredients.

We regularly support Thirsk Community Works (CW) in their service to the wider community. Our harvest gifts and occasional offerings on special services (e.g., Christmas) have been given to them. We have a box in church available for non-perishable food donations towards their food bank. Our Christmas offerings this year were split three ways between Red Cross – Israel and Occupied Palestine Territory Appeal, Church Army and Salvation Army (local).

The Parochial Hall is a valued community asset. There are many groups who regularly meet throughout the year as well as private events. The 100 Club which raises funds towards the running costs was able to continue and increased its contribution to the Hall's income.

Pastoral work: Our pastoral Recognised Parish Assistants (RPA), Cecily Rands and Yvonne Bowling continued their support of elderly and vulnerable people. Cecily is standing down from being an RPA but she is still involved in pastoral work.

The Mothers' Union continued their meetings during the year.
The Prayer Circle continued to operate throughout 2023 to support those in particular need of prayer. Many thanks to Jill Drew for coordinating this.

Monthly Singing for Joy sessions continued for residents of Orchid House and the bungalows and surrounding community.

Farming chaplaincy: Yvonne Bowling continued her work as an assistant chaplain working under Rev Dianne Gamble to provide support to the farming community at the Auction Mart located in the parish.

Ecumenical relations: St Oswald's values the covenant with the Methodist Church. A joint Christmas card with the Methodist Church was distributed using the delivery team. The children and youth team have continued to work ecumenically and joint services were planned to celebrate festivals through the year. We especially enjoyed the Easter Messy Church, Summer Holiday Club, and our Christingle and Crib services.

Safeguarding
Elizabeth Allen continued as our Safeguarding Officer until the APCM in May 2023. Amanda Wood was appointed as parish Safeguarding Officer, taking over from Elizabeth. All PCC members are DBS checked and must complete a Confidential Declaration Form and complete an on-line safeguarding training course. St Oswald's PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 to have regard to House of Bishop's guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

Financial review
Our Voluntary Income has been maintained through the generosity of many people and has allowed us to raise our Freewill Offering to the Diocese from £60,000 to £62,400.
2023 has been a year of transition as we await the appointment of a new CandY worker but still continue to benefit from much of the Voluntary Income that partially supports the role. Although, on the face of it, our total income appears to be much reduced at £149,635 (2022 - £167,120) most of this is due to the large grant for the refurbishment of the Hall in 2022. There were also significant donations from other parishes in 2022 to support the full-time CandY post which we hope will return in 2024. Overall, we generated a surplus of £8,551 (2022 - £55). A part of this is attributable to the performance of the Parochial Hall which raised its income from lettings to £20,105 (2022 - £14,350) and its net surplus to £2,525 (2022 - £5,241) having paid for the carpark and fencing. This leaves the Hall in a much healthier place with residual reserves of £10,822 - there is still work to do in the carpark and the exterior painting of the whole building has now become essential.
The Soup Lunches have continued throughout the year producing donations of £4,511 of which £1,250 has been given collectively to the Lambert and Community Works. All surpluses

are or will be given away. Huge thanks are due to the volunteer team that manages the Hall, the Soup Lunches, 100 Club and maintenance.

Reserves Policy

It is the PCC's intention to spend those Reserves that are Restricted on their defined purposes, in due course. Unrestricted Reserves include an amount that is Designated for the Parochial Hall and the PCC aims to safeguard these for an ongoing plan of refurbishment. The remainder of Unrestricted Reserves represent approximately three months income which the PCC feels is the minimum that it should aim to hold for normal levels of activity.

The Church building, fabric, ornaments and furnishings.

The buildings team continued to organise the management of the buildings. A number of working parties undertook maintenance tasks throughout the year. A separate report on the building fabric, ornaments and furnishings is available.

Thanks

Grateful thanks are expressed to all at St Oswald's who have worked so hard, sometimes in different ways from normal, and with so much dedication for the benefit of the church and wider community.

May we continue to love God and our neighbours near and far as we seek to serve Christ in this place. We remember that our hope is always in Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

Approved by the PCC on 25 March 2024, and signed on their behalf.

David Tucker
Churchwarden

Simon Birkbeck
Churchwarden

Rev David Biggs
Priest-in-charge

Love God.
Build Community.
Serve Sowerby.

ST OSWALD'S SOWERBY

Registered charity number 1135485

Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

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Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of The Parochial Church Council of The Ecclesiastical Parish of St Oswald Sowerby

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023 which are set out on pages 2 to 7.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

(1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or

(2) the accounts do not accord with those records; or

(3) the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Barrie Cross ACA
The Barker Partnership
Chartered Accountants
17 Central Buildings
Market Place
Thirsk
North Yorkshire
YO7 1HD

Date: 11/4/24

Parochial Church Council of St Oswald's Sowerby
Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31st December 2023

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Incoming and endowments from:				
Voluntary Income				
Giving through Gift Aid	46,162	-	46,162	47,898
Tax Refunds	14,959	-	14,959	14,026
Other planned Giving	7,355	-	7,355	5,504
Collection Plate	1,967	-	1,967	2,229
Occasional & Other Services	2,743	2,764	5,507	6,680
Donations				
General	7,723	0	7,723	6,519
Donations - General Electronic	783	-	783	534
Donations into CandY account & Gift Aid	6,234	-	6,234	7,370
Donations from other Parishes re CandY	1,200	-	1,200	7,958
Wall box & Bookstall	52	-	52	119
Photocopying	54	-	54	62
	89,232	**2,764**	**91,996**	**98,899**
Other				
Fees Received				
PCC	9,891	-	9,891	8,982
Organist & Choir	1,190	-	1,190	910
Bell Ringers	140	-	140	270
YDBF	5,048	-	5,048	3,975
Income from Events				
Sunday Coffee	430	-	430	370
Fund Raising & Sale of Furniture	3,073	-	3,073	2,083
Sowerby Music	0	-	0	320
Other hire of Church	1,004	-	1,004	975
CandY Activity Income	2,500	-	2,500	392
Recurring Grants				
Wayleave & Rent	122	-	122	122
Sowerby Parish Council	2,400	-	2,400	0
	25,798	**0**	**25,798**	**18,399**
Other trading activities				
Parochial Hall Income (note 12)	20,105	-	20,105	14,350
Parochial Hall Earnings from 100 Club	1,286	-	1,286	1,684
Parochial Hall Refurbishment Grants	3,590		3,590	28,774
Parochial Hall Donations Received	942	-	942	540
Transfers from CandY Account	0	-	0	2,500
Soup Lunch Donations	0	4511	4,511	876
	25,923	**4,511**	**30,435**	**48,724**
Investments				
Dividends (Gross) & Bank Interest	1,406	-	1,406	1,097
	1,406	**0**	**1,406**	**1,097**
Total Incoming Resources	**142,359**	**7,276**	**149,635**	**167,119**
Expenditure on				
Charitable activities (see note 3)	**135,227**	**7,007**	**142,235**	**165,689**
Net income/(expenditure) before gains/(losses) on investments	**7,132**	**268**	**7,400**	**1,430**
Net gains/(losses) on investments	**1,150**	-	**1,150**	**-1,376**
Net movement of Funds	**8,282**	**268**	**8,551**	**54**
Balances b/fwd 1 January 2023	**46,714**	**3,153**	**49,867**	**49,813**
Balances c/fwd 31 December 2023	**54,996**	**3,422**	**58,418**	**49,867**

Parochial Church Council of St Oswald's Sowerby

Note 3	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2023 Total	2022 Total
Charitable activities	£	£	£	£
Freewill Offering	**62,400**	**0**	**62,400**	**60,000**
Salaries, Honoraria and YDBF				
YDBF	5,048	-	5,048	3,975
CandY Salaries and on-costs	7,886	-	7,886	21,743
Admin Salary	0		0	0
Organist and Choir - inc Occ. Services	2,150	-	2,150	1,925
Bellringers - Occ. Services	130	-	130	270
	15,214	**0**	**15,214**	**27,913**
Expenses of Clergy and CandY Staff				
Vicarage Costs	1,120	-	1,120	960
Mileage Allowance	874	-	874	500
Expense for CandY work	1,741	180	1,921	1,132
Gifts	43	-	43	98
Recruitment costs	575	-	575	0
Mission Outreach	206	-	206	428
Training & Resources	797	-	797	656
	5,356	**180**	**5,536**	**3,774**
Church Running Costs				
Cleaning	1,352	-	1,352	1,618
Insurance	2,298	-	2,298	1,895
Candles and Service Costs	477	-	477	531
Repairs	2,635	-	2,635	1,301
Organ	183	-	183	0
Churchyard	2,873	-	2,873	2,212
	9,817	**0**	**9,817**	**7,557**
Church Utilities				
Gas	3,221	-	3,221	2,867
Water Rates	180	-	180	150
Electricity	1,095	-	1,095	915
	4,495	**0**	**4,495**	**3,932**
Church Administration				
Computer, Phone & Broadband	3,596	-	3,596	2,404
Professional Fees	3,474	-	3,474	756
Website Development	0		0	1,920
Brokerage and Commission Fees	378	-	378	373
Bank Charges	231		231	238
Licences and Subscriptions	1,109	-	1,109	999
Postage and Stationery	621	-	621	352
Copier Costs	375	-	375	1,853
	9,784	**0**	**9,784**	**8,895**
Donations to Charities				
Overseas Mission - from own Funds	5,050	-	5,050	3,800
Other - special and funeral collections	-	2,764	2,764	4,191
	5,050	**2,764**	**7,814**	**7,991**
Costs of generating funds				
Parochial Hall (note 12)				
Operating costs	16,062	-	16,062	12,314
Exceptional expenditure	7,336	-	7,336	27,793
Soup Lunch Costs	0	4063	4063	789
	23,398	**4,063**	**27,461**	**40,896**
Fabric Costs				
Architect's Fees	0	-	0	0
Fabric Costs	-287	-	-287	4,731
	-287	**0**	**-287**	**4,731**
Total charitable activities	**135,227**	**7,007**	**142,235**	**165,689**

Parochial Church Council of St Oswald's Sowerby
Balance Sheet
as at 31 December 2023

	Note	2023	2022
		£	£
Fixed Assets	1	**2,033**	**2,438**
Current Assets			
Investments	4	33,192	31,176
Debtors	6	2,794	3,729
Bank Accounts	7	22,125	14,575
Prepayments		54	271
Cash Balances		200	200
		58,365	**49,951**
Creditors			
Sundry Creditors		0	314
100 Club Deposits for following year		1,980	2,208
	8	**1,980**	**2,522**
Net Current Assets		**58,418**	**49,867**
Represented by:			
Unrestricted Funds	10	54,996	46,714
Restricted Funds	11	3,422	3,153
Net Funds		**58,418**	**49,867**

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 25 March 2024
and signed on its behalf by

Rev David Biggs
Priest-in-charge

Simon Birkbeck
Churchwarden

1 Accounting Policies

1.1 Accounting Convention

The accounts are prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102 – (Charities SORP (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.
The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets which are shown at market value.

1.2 Funds

General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted.
The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body or those that are informal gatherings of church members.

1.3 Incoming Resources

Voluntary income and capital sources
Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC. Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid is recognised only when received. Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when received. Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for when received. Funds raised by events are accounted for gross. Sales of books and magazines are accounted for gross.
Other income
Income from the Parochial Hall is recognised when due.
Income from bank investments
Bank interest entitlements are accounted for as they accrue and appear gross.

1.4 Resources expended

The diocesan parish share is accounted for when it is paid. The PCC has paid its full share within the year.

1.5 Balance Sheet – Fixed Assets

Consecrated property and moveable church furnishings
Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind is excluded from the accounts by S10(2a) of the Charities Act 2011.
Moveable church furnishings held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC, and which require a faculty for disposal, are accounted as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the church's inventory which can be inspected at any reasonable time. For inalienable property acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the accounts.
Expenditure incurred in the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings, individual items under £1000 or on the repair of movable church items acquired before 1 January 2000 is written off.

Other Fixtures and Fittings
Depreciation is provided at 10% of cost on Hall Furniture and Equipment which is calculated to write off the cost less residual value of each asset over its useful life. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £1000 or less will be written off as the asset is acquired.

2 Net Incoming/Outgoing Resources

	2023	2022
	£	£
This is stated after charging:		
Depreciation and other amounts written off tangible fixed assets	**405**	**405**
Reporting accountant's fees	**250**	**250**

4 Investments

During 2009 the Church became entitled to the Arthur Dreyheller Thompson Trust Fund following the death of the residuary life tenant. The investments are quoted in the accounts at market value as at 31st December 2022. The use of this fund is unrestricted.

5 Employment costs

Included in employment costs are salaries paid to PCC members in their roles as the Charity's Child and Youth Ministers. No employee or PCC member received emoluments of more than £60,000 (2022 : None).

6 Debtors

	2023	2022
	£	£
Hall Hire	2,463	3,298
Due from Benefice parishes & others for administrative costs & copying	331	431
	2,794	**3,729**

7 Bank Accounts

	£	£
Church	704	1,634
Parochial Hall	1,851	427
Deposit	11,524	10,642
"Sowerby CandY" (Note 12)	8,046	1,872
	22,125	**14,575**

8 Creditors: Falling due within one year and more

	£	£
Gas bills for Church and Hall	0	314
Hall 100Club – 2022 Subscriptions	1,980	2,208
	1,980	**2,522**

9 Analysis of Net Assets by Funds

	Unrestricted	*Restricted*	*Total*
	£	£	£
Fixed Assets	2,033	0	2,033
Current Assets	54,943	3,422	58,365
Current Liabilities	1,980	0	1,980
Fund Balance	**54,996**	**3,422**	**58,418**

10 Unrestricted Funds

Designated funds are included in unrestricted funds and are for the maintenance and improvement of the Parochial Church Hall. See note 13.

11 Analysis of Restricted Funds

	1/1/2023	Movement In	Movement Out	31/12/2023
	£	£	£	£
Bells	898	0	0	898
Charity	0	2,764	2,764	0
Saints Alive	750	0	0	750
Mexico 2021 Trip	1,168	0	180	988
Soup Lunches	337	4,512	4,063	786
	3,153	**7,276**	**7,007**	**3,422**

Saints Alive is the residue of money handed over from the old joint Saints Alive account. The Bells account is a long-standing fund from which repairs are taken over time. Mexico 2021 is deposits taken on a proposed youth trip now deferred and held for general youth activity.

12 Sowerby CandY

This account is a joint venture between St Oswald's Church and Sowerby Methodist Church. It is a vehicle for raising money to support children's and youth work. The activity is reflected in St Oswald's accounts as a restricted fund for convenience and transparency.

13	**Parochial Hall**	**2023**	**2022**
		£	£
	Income		
	Lettings	20,105	14,350
	Earnings from 100 Club	1,286	1,684
	Refurbishment Grants/Donations Received	3,590	28,774
	Donations received	942	540
	Total Income	**25,923**	**45,348**
	Operating Costs for the year		
	Caretaker & Cleaner	7,072	6,586
	Cleaning Materials	538	316
	Window Cleaning	260	260
	Gas	2,736	1,337
	Electricity	1,646	797
	Water	413	437
	Insurance	700	670
	Miscellaneous repairs	1,150	800
	Gas certificate and boiler repairs	0	391
	Fire Protection & PAT Testing	321	175
	Professional Fees re Scout Hut ground rent	698	0
	Bank Charges	123	140
	Depreciation of Equipment	405	405
	Total Operating Costs	**16,062**	**12,314**
	Exceptional Expenditure for the year		
	Tree surgery on carpark trees	420	0
	Refurbishment of Hall Interior	0	27,793
	Car Park entrance and fencing	6,348	0
	Annexe TV & Blinds	568	0
	Total Exceptional Costs	**7,336**	**27,793**
	Surplus for the year	**2,525**	**5,241**
	Fund Balance at 1 January 2023	**8,297**	**3,056**
	Residual Fund Balance at 31 December 2023	**10,822**	**8,297**

This fund is designated but not restricted.

ST OSWALD'S SOWERBY

Annual report 2023

Parochial Church Council of St Oswald's Sowerby
Annual Trustees Report for the year ended 31 December 2023

Incumbent: Revd David Biggs (Priest-in-Charge)
Assistant Priest: Revd Pauline Percy
Independent Examiner: Mr Barrie Cross, ACA
Bankers: HSBC Independent Financial Advisor: Ellis Bates Group
Church Architect: David Beaumont
Website: www.stoswaldsowerby.org.uk Facebook: www.facebook.com/stoswaldsowerby

Administrative information

St Oswald's Church is situated in Sowerby in North Yorkshire. It is part of the Diocese of York within the Church of England. The current correspondence address is: 162 Front Street, Sowerby YO7 1JG. Sowerby PCC is a registered charity; number 1135485.

Members of the Parochial Church Council

Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. In 2023 the APCM was on 14 May 2023. During the year the following served as members of the PCC:

Churchwardens (*ex officio*):	David Tucker (joint Vice Chair)
	Simon Birkbeck (joint Vice Chair)
Priest-in-Charge (*ex officio*):	Revd David Biggs
Assistant Priest (*ex officio*):	Revd Pauline Percy
Reader:	David Brooke
Recognised Parish Assistants:	Cecily Rands (retired September 2023)
(now known as Authorised Lay Ministers)	Helen Irving
	Yvonne Bowling
Deanery Synod (*ex officio*):	Sue Binns

Elected Members from 14 May 2023

Retiring 2024	Pauline Alderson
	Morna Stoakley
Retiring 2025	Yvonne Bowling
	Andrew McCormack
	Jill Drew
	Gayle Hartley
Retiring 2026	Helen Irving (Standing Committee)
	David Brooke
	Jane Jackson (Secretary – Standing Committee)
Co-opted Members	Cecily Rands
	Graham Merriam (Treasurer and Standing Committee)
	Rachel Halkyard (CandY) from December 2023

Structure, governance and management

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a corporate body established by the Church of England.

It operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is registered as a separate charity with the Charity Commission.
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.

In normal circumstances the full PCC meets six times a year, or more as needed. The PCC is supported by the Standing Committee, consisting of Churchwardens, Treasurer and Secretary and Children and Youth Minister. In addition, there are a few working groups which report to PCC. Our Deanery Synod Representatives attend meetings during the year and report back to the PCC.
Special combined meetings of the PCCs of St Oswald Sowerby, All Saints Thirkleby, St Mary's Kilburn, St Cuthbert's Sessay and St Mary's Bagby took place on 25th February 2023 and 2nd September 2023.

Objectives of the PCC
St Oswald's PCC worked with the Priest-In-Charge, the Rev David Biggs, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also responsible for the management and maintenance of Sowerby Parochial Hall and Annexe. The Church, the Parochial Hall and the Annexe are normally well-used and valued community assets and a base for our service to members of the congregation and wider outreach to the parish as a whole.

Our Mission
At St Oswald's our vision is that we seek to Love God, Build Community and Serve Sowerby.

Review of the year: Achievements and Performance
2023 has been a year of some growth and a return to some 'normality' after the impact of the Covid pandemic.

We held two joint PCC sessions with the other churches of the plurality to try and build Mission Action Plans for each church to take forward. Locally, this was to build on our stated vision to Love God, Build Community and Serve Sowerby. This work remains to be developed further.

We attempted to recruit a new Children, Families and Youth worker. We took the process through a job and person description, advertising, interviewing and offering the position to a person who would have been suitable. Due to personal circumstances however, she was unable to take up the post. Pauline Alderson agreed to continue her former role (on a reduced basis) in the interim working one day per week. We also bought in the advice of a youth adviser from the diocese in order to plan the Sunday night youth groups. Towards the end of 2023, we appointed Rachel Halkyard (a member of our church) to act as our interim Children, Families and Youth Worker. She started work in time to plan the Christmas family activities. We were very pleased to welcome back Sowerby School and Keeble Gateway Academy for their Nativity services in church before Christmas.

We continued the new 'Warm Welcome' lunches on Fridays throughout the year. This has been appreciated by a fairly regular group of mainly older people. During the year our

community social activities included a 'Coronation Big Lunch' on the Hall field and also 'Coffee Cakes and Crafts' in the Autumn in the Hall.

Our Lent Course was on the subject of 'Unanswered Prayer'. This was well attended and appreciated. We were excited to be able to hold a full-immersion adult baptism in church.

The buildings remain in good repair and we arranged for a full digital survey of the church and churchyard to enable the Architect to advise on possible future developments to make the buildings more accessible and to improve our facilities.

Grateful thanks are due to Rev Sandra Howells and other visiting and retired clergy for assisting in conducting services in church.

Children and Youth

After the sad loss of Laura Damulira at the end of 2022, Pauline Alderson returned in January for one day a week to keep the children and family work going. We held several Messy church sessions, including an Easter themed one on Good Friday which was very well attended. This attracted new families who had not had any previous connection with St Oswald's. With help from volunteers from Thirkleby, Kilburn and Bagby we held a Messy Church in Thirkleby on 22nd April. The families who attended were all new to Messy Church and appreciated the event. We returned on the 14th October to hold a second Messy Church using a Harvest theme. Some of those who attended then came along to our Follow the Light Night event at St Oswald's on 31st October and our Messy Christingle service in December. These events, along with the Crib Service on Christmas Eve, always attract and are appreciated by many families in the community.

The Open the Book teams continued to visit Sowerby, Sessay, Keeble and Topcliffe primary schools to share Bible stories twice each half term. The children and the staff always look forward to our visits.

Holiday Club took place during the first week of the summer holiday with an 'Under the Sea' theme. We shared stories from both the Old and New Testaments with the children. The team of volunteers once again excelled themselves, working together to deliver a fun-filled, action packed week for the children. Many members of the youth group took on roles, responsibilities and leadership with great enthusiasm. Lots of families attended the Holiday Club service on the Sunday morning.

Kids Club continued throughout the year with Godly Play each 1st and 2nd Sunday. This is always very popular. We greatly appreciate members of Sowerby Methodist church who lead this with support from St Oswald's helpers. Rev David introduced a Family Communion service each 4th Sunday of the month, where the children are involved in setting the communion table. There is a shortened Kids Club session during this service so the children can attend communion.

Little Wonders baby and toddler group met every Monday morning in term time and we welcomed many new families throughout the year. The group is well attended and continues to grow. Thanks are due to the team of volunteers who work hard to make people feel welcome and provide a range of activities and refreshments. Several families enjoyed a joint outing to Monk Park Farm in August with Little Ark Club from St Mary's.

The youth group has continued to meet in 2023, and continues to be well received by the young people. We started a new pattern of having a session every Sunday in term time with one session being a youth small group. Youth group would not be possible without the committed team of volunteer youth leaders who continue to invest in our young people. In December there was a trip to The Oakes, a Christian activity centre. The young people had a great time, taking part in activities and engaging in sessions exploring 'The First Christmas' and 'Who is Jesus?'

In June two families from St Oswald's attended the family weekend camp at Wydale Emmaus Centre which was organised by York Diocese. Adults and children thoroughly enjoyed the weekend and are looking forward to attending in 2024.

At the beginning of December we were delighted to welcome Rachel Halkyard as the new Children, Youth & Family worker.

Parish and Community Events

As described in the review of the year, a 'Coronation Big Lunch' on the Hall field was held on 7th May and also 'Coffee Cakes and Crafts' on 18th November in the Hall. Alongside these a summer fair was held on 15th July. The church building was used for a number of different concerts throughout the year.

A public service on Remembrance Sunday, 12 November, took place at the war memorial and the church was beautifully decorated with flowers and the outside walls with knitted and crocheted poppies. Many thanks to Barbara Thornton and her team for continuing to provide flower arrangements and to Kath Reynard for tending the outdoor planters.
Carol Singing around the Sowerby Christmas Tree took place on Tuesday 19th December and was led by Rev David Biggs.

Giving, Mission and Community

We continued to support Jigsaw Kids Ministries in the Philippines through regular gifts to CMS (to support their mission partner Tim Lee) and to Jigsaw directly. We were inspired to hear from Tim Lee at a service on 5th November about the ways in which Jigsaw was serving the communities around them in the Philippines and about lives that were being transformed through this ministry.

We have continued to host Warm Welcome Lunches. These take place on Friday lunchtimes from 12 noon in the Parochial Hall. These are intended to provide a place for people to come where it is warm and welcoming and to have a simple lunch. The lunches are free. A rota of helpers is organised by Pauline Alderson to ensure this happens. Special thanks are due to Penny Merriam, Sandra Howells and occasional others who cook the soups and source the ingredients.

We regularly support Thirsk Community Works (CW) in their service to the wider community. Our harvest gifts and occasional offerings on special services (e.g., Christmas) have been given to them. We have a box in church available for non-perishable food donations towards their food bank. Our Christmas offerings this year were split three ways between Red Cross – Israel and Occupied Palestine Territory Appeal, Church Army and Salvation Army (local).

The Parochial Hall is a valued community asset. There are many groups who regularly meet throughout the year as well as private events. The 100 Club which raises funds towards the running costs was able to continue and increased its contribution to the Hall's income.

Pastoral work: Our pastoral Recognised Parish Assistants (RPA), Cecily Rands and Yvonne Bowling continued their support of elderly and vulnerable people. Cecily is standing down from being an RPA but she is still involved in pastoral work.

The Mothers' Union continued their meetings during the year.
The Prayer Circle continued to operate throughout 2023 to support those in particular need of prayer. Many thanks to Jill Drew for coordinating this.

Monthly Singing for Joy sessions continued for residents of Orchid House and the bungalows and surrounding community.

Farming chaplaincy: Yvonne Bowling continued her work as an assistant chaplain working under Rev Dianne Gamble to provide support to the farming community at the Auction Mart located in the parish.

Ecumenical relations: St Oswald's values the covenant with the Methodist Church. A joint Christmas card with the Methodist Church was distributed using the delivery team. The children and youth team have continued to work ecumenically and joint services were planned to celebrate festivals through the year. We especially enjoyed the Easter Messy Church, Summer Holiday Club, and our Christingle and Crib services.

Safeguarding
Elizabeth Allen continued as our Safeguarding Officer until the APCM in May 2023. Amanda Wood was appointed as parish Safeguarding Officer, taking over from Elizabeth. All PCC members are DBS checked and must complete a Confidential Declaration Form and complete an on-line safeguarding training course. St Oswald's PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 to have regard to House of Bishop's guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

Financial review
Our Voluntary Income has been maintained through the generosity of many people and has allowed us to raise our Freewill Offering to the Diocese from £60,000 to £62,400.
2023 has been a year of transition as we await the appointment of a new CandY worker but still continue to benefit from much of the Voluntary Income that partially supports the role. Although, on the face of it, our total income appears to be much reduced at £149,635 (2022 - £167,120) most of this is due to the large grant for the refurbishment of the Hall in 2022. There were also significant donations from other parishes in 2022 to support the full-time CandY post which we hope will return in 2024. Overall, we generated a surplus of £8,551 (2022 - £55). A part of this is attributable to the performance of the Parochial Hall which raised its income from lettings to £20,105 (2022 - £14,350) and its net surplus to £2,525 (2022 - £5,241) having paid for the carpark and fencing. This leaves the Hall in a much healthier place with residual reserves of £10,822 - there is still work to do in the carpark and the exterior painting of the whole building has now become essential.
The Soup Lunches have continued throughout the year producing donations of £4,511 of which £1,250 has been given collectively to the Lambert and Community Works. All surpluses

are or will be given away. Huge thanks are due to the volunteer team that manages the Hall, the Soup Lunches, 100 Club and maintenance.

Reserves Policy

It is the PCC's intention to spend those Reserves that are Restricted on their defined purposes, in due course. Unrestricted Reserves include an amount that is Designated for the Parochial Hall and the PCC aims to safeguard these for an ongoing plan of refurbishment. The remainder of Unrestricted Reserves represent approximately three months income which the PCC feels is the minimum that it should aim to hold for normal levels of activity.

The Church building, fabric, ornaments and furnishings.

The buildings team continued to organise the management of the buildings. A number of working parties undertook maintenance tasks throughout the year. A separate report on the building fabric, ornaments and furnishings is available.

Thanks

Grateful thanks are expressed to all at St Oswald's who have worked so hard, sometimes in different ways from normal, and with so much dedication for the benefit of the church and wider community.

May we continue to love God and our neighbours near and far as we seek to serve Christ in this place. We remember that our hope is always in Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

Approved by the PCC on 25 March 2024, and signed on their behalf.

David Tucker
Churchwarden

Simon Birkbeck
Churchwarden

Rev David Biggs
Priest-in-charge

Love God.
Build Community.
Serve Sowerby.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST OSWALD SOWERBY

England & Wales - Charity number 1135485

Accounts

ST OSWALD'S SOWERBY

Annual report 2022

Parochial Church Council of St Oswald's Sowerby
Annual Trustees Report for the year ended 31 December 2022

Incumbent: Revd David Biggs (Priest-in-Charge)
Assistant Priest: Revd Pauline Percy
Independent Examiner: Mr Barrie Cross ACA
Bankers: HSBC Independent Financial Advisor: Ellis Bates Group
Church Architect: David Beaumont
Website: www.stoswaldsowerby.org.uk Facebook: www.facebook.com/stoswaldsowerby

Administrative information

St Oswald's Church is situated in Sowerby in North Yorkshire. It is part of the Diocese of York within the Church of England. The current correspondence address is: 162 Front Street, Sowerby YO7 1JG. Sowerby PCC is a registered charity; number 1135485.

Members of the Parochial Church Council

Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. In 2022 the APCM was on 8 May 2022. During the year the following served as members of the PCC:

Churchwardens (*ex officio*):	David Tucker (joint Vice Chair)
	Simon Birkbeck (joint Vice Chair)
Priest-in-Charge (*ex officio*):	Revd David Biggs
Assistant Priest (*ex officio*):	Revd Pauline Percy
Reader:	David Brooke
Children and Youth Minister:	Laura Damulira
Recognised Parish Assistants:	Cecily Rands
	Helen Irving
	Yvonne Bowling
Deanery Synod (*ex officio*):	Gayle Hartley
	Sue Binns
	Jill Drew
Standing down at 8 May 2022	Richard Halkyard
Elected Members from 8 May 2022	
Retiring 2023	Helen Irving (Standing Committee)
	David Brooke
	Jane Jackson
Retiring 2024	Maureen Carr
	Pauline Alderson
	Morna Stoakley
Retiring 2025	Yvonne Bowling
	Andrew McCormack
Co-opted Members	Cecily Rands
	Graham Merriam (Treasurer and Standing Committee)
	Laura Damulira (Children and Youth minister) (Standing Committee)

Structure, governance and management

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a corporate body established by the Church of England. It operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is registered as a separate charity with the Charity Commission.

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.

In normal circumstances the full PCC meets six times a year, or more as needed. The PCC is supported by the Standing Committee, consisting of Church-wardens, Treasurer and Secretary and Children and Youth Minister. In addition, there are a few working groups which report to PCC. Our Deanery Synod Representatives attend meetings during the year and report back to the PCC.

A special combined meeting of the PCCs of St Oswald Sowerby, All Saints Thirkleby, St Mary's Kilburn, St Cuthbert's Sessay and St Mary's Bagby took place on 22 January 2022.

Objectives of the PCC

St Oswald's PCC worked with the Priest-In-Charge, the Rev David Biggs, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also responsible for the management and maintenance of Sowerby Parochial Hall and Annexe. The Church, the Parochial Hall and the Annexe are normally well-used and valued community assets and a base for our service to members of the congregation and wider outreach to the parish as a whole.

Our Mission

At St Oswald's our vision is that we seek to Love God, Build Community and Serve Sowerby.

Review of the year: Achievements and Performance

2022 has in some ways been a mixed year for the church family with some great joys but also great sadness. Early in 2022 we had an away-day to help us establish a new vision. This resulted in a vision that we seek to Love God, Build Community and Serve Sowerby. The return to some level of 'normality' after the covid pandemic has of course been a relief – although there were a number of parishioners infected throughout the course of the year resulting in some disruption. The appointment of our new Children and Youth Minister at the start of the year was of course an encouragement and she settled well into the role. Very sadly, she became seriously ill in August and we were devastated to hear of her passing in November. This has left behind a great sadness through the church family.

We have made some improvements to the AV system in church. This has improved the sound quality at events and services as well as improving the loop system. Most of our regular 10.30am services are now transmitted on-line using Zoom, enabling people who are unwell or cautious about possible infection to join the service.

We now have a new church web site and have coordinated our communications with a new logo. The St Oswald's weekly notice-sheet and the monthly Saints Alive magazine, which had been circulated as paper copies, are now available in digital format.

A new social action project to offer a warm space and a lunch was launched in November. Full details are later in this report.

A confirmation service was held in church on 27 November 2022.

Baptisms and weddings were conducted as normal again following the Covid-19 pandemic. We had the joy of baptising both adults and children in the course of 2022. Thanks are due to all those who support these important ministries to our community.

Funerals are now back to normal following the Covid-19 pandemic. A new crematorium is now available locally. Grateful thanks are due to Rev Sandra Howells and other visiting clergy for assisting in conducting these services and to John Kennedy for his commitment and service in the role of sexton, and to the sides-persons who assist.

Children and Youth

Youth work and work with children and families continues to be a strength of St Oswald's, and this baton was carried on by the new Children and Youth Minister, Laura Damulira, who we appointed with great joy. Laura started work in February 2022. This post had a wider role description than the previous role and was seeking not only to resource St Oswald's and her sister churches, but also begin to offer resource to our wider deanery as part of the deanery plan. Before she became seriously ill, Laura, along with Helen Irving and their supporting team, have continued to build on past success and worked on new ways of reaching out to children, youth and their families.

Youth group has continued to meet every week in two age groups. 40 young people are now connected to the group. A particular highlight was the summer BBQ at the vicarage, welcoming in new members and saying farewell to those moving on.

In summer 2022 we ran our annual Holiday Club. This was well supported by other churches.
The Little Wonders toddler group has continued to meet in the Parochial Hall and has seen encouraging growth. Helen Irving and Paula Haylett have been supported by a committed team of volunteers and new members have joined the team this year.

"Open the Book" has continued to visit local schools regularly, bringing the Bible to life at Sowerby, Sessay, Keeble and Topcliffe. There is demand for "Open the Book" from more schools in the local area and we are working on plans to facilitate this.

Sunday morning provision for children has been going from strength to strength with Godly Play meeting in the Annexe Godly play room twice a month (led by Godly Play leaders from Sowerby Methodist Church) and Kids Club and Worship for all covering the other Sundays. There are plans for 2023 to resume having the children in for parts of a monthly Family Communion service.

Parish and Community Events

A Spring Fair was held on the Parochial Hall field on 30 April 2022. This was a joint venture with Crimestoppers.
Coffee, Cakes and Crafts was held in the Parochial Hall on 5 November 2022.
The church building was used for a number of different concerts throughout the year.
A public service on Remembrance Sunday, 13 November, took place at the war memorial and the church was beautifully decorated with flowers and the outside walls with knitted and crocheted poppies. Many thanks to Barbara Thornton and her team for continuing to provide flower arrangements and to Kath Reynard for tending the outdoor planters.
Carol Singing around the Sowerby Christmas Tree took place on Tuesday 20th December and was led by Rev David Biggs.

Giving, Mission and Community

We continued to support Jigsaw Kids Ministries in the Philippines through regular gifts to CMS (to support their mission partner Tim Lee) and to Jigsaw directly. This project has been adversely affected by Covid-19, and the support of churches in the UK was vital to their continuance. We were inspired to hear from Tim Lee at a service on 24 April about the ways in which Jigsaw had responded and adapted during the pandemic to meet the needs of the community it serves.

We have started a new venture: Warm Welcome Lunches (beginning in November 2022). These take place on Friday lunchtimes from 12 noon in the Parochial Hall. These are intended to provide a place for people to come where it is warm and welcoming and to have a simple lunch. The lunches are free. A rota of helpers is organised by Pauline Alderson to ensure this happens. Special thanks are due to Penny and Graham Merriam who cook the soups and source the ingredients.

We regularly support Thirsk Community Works (CW) in their service to the wider community. Our harvest gifts and occasional offerings on special services (e.g., Christmas) have been given to them. We have a box in church available for non-perishable food donations towards their food bank. Our Christmas offerings this year were split three ways between CW, Church Army and Christian Aid's Ukraine appeal.

The Parochial Hall is a valued community asset. During the pandemic many of the activities there, both church-related and community bookings, ceased. Many of these have now returned. The 100 Club which raises funds towards the running costs was able to continue and increased its contribution to the Hall's income.

Pastoral work: The disruption caused by the pandemic, together with loneliness and fear of further infection continued to contribute to a high level of anxiety and distress in the community. Our pastoral Recognised Parish Assistants (RPA), Cecily Rands and Yvonne Bowling continued their support of elderly and vulnerable people as far as the Coronavirus restrictions allowed.

The Mothers' Union recommenced their meetings during the year.
The Prayer Circle continued to operate throughout 2022 to support those in particular need of prayer. Many thanks to Jill Drew for coordinating this.

Monthly Singing for Joy sessions resumed in June for residents of Orchid House and the bungalows and surrounding community.

Farming chaplaincy: Yvonne Bowling continued her work as an assistant chaplain working under Rev Dianne Gamble to provide support to the farming community at the Auction Mart located in the parish.

Ecumenical relations: St Oswald's values the covenant with the Methodist Church. A joint Christmas card (with the Salvation Army and the Methodist Church) was distributed using the delivery team. The children and youth team have continued to work ecumenically and joint services were planned to celebrate festivals through the year. We especially enjoyed the Easter Messy Church, and our Christingle and Crib services.

Safeguarding
Elizabeth Allen continued as our Safeguarding Officer. All PCC members are DBS checked and must complete a Confidential Declaration Form and complete an on-line safeguarding training course. St Oswald's PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 to have regard to House of Bishop's guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

Financial review
Overall, 2022 was a year of stabilisation as we came out of covid mode. It is satisfying that the accounts show that a surplus more or less on budget at £55 against a budget of £770 on a total income of £167,120. We continue to be thankful for the generosity of our parishioners whose planned giving, collection plate and associated Gift Aid amounted to £69,657 (2021 - £59,457). This enables us to consistently improve our Freewill offer to York Diocese; we gave £60,000 in 2022 and £57,500 in 2021. We are well protected from utility increases by existing contracts and other expenses are under control. The Parochial Hall was extensively renovated during the year at a cost of £27,793 almost totally covered by grants from Hambleton DC and trusts. The residue of the work to the car park will take place before Easter. This gives us a valuable community asset in good condition which is now in regular use throughout the year. The 100 Club continues to provide useful financial back up.
Many thanks to Graham Merriam for the financial leadership he has given as treasurer throughout the year and to Gayle Hartley for all the detailed financial administration.

Reserves Policy
It is the PCC's intention to spend those Reserves that are Restricted on their defined purposes, in due course. Unrestricted Reserves include an amount that is Designated for the Parochial Hall and the PCC aims to safeguard these for an ongoing plan of refurbishment. The remainder of Unrestricted Reserves represent approximately three months income which the PCC feels is the minimum that it should aim to hold for normal levels of activity.

The Church building, fabric, ornaments and furnishings.

A buildings team was set up in 2022 to organise the management of the buildings. A number of working parties undertook maintenance tasks throughout the year. A separate report on the building fabric, ornaments and furnishings is available.

Thanks

Grateful thanks are expressed to all at St Oswald's who have worked so hard, sometimes in different ways from normal, and with so much dedication for the benefit of the church and wider community.

May we continue to love God and our neighbours near and far as we seek to serve Christ in this place. We remember that our hope is always in Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

Approved by the PCC on 14 March 2023, and signed on their behalf.

David Tucker
Churchwarden

Simon Birkbeck
Churchwarden

Rev David Biggs
Priest-in-charge

Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of The Parochial Church Council of The Ecclesiastical Parish of St Oswald Sowerby

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022 which are set out on pages 7 to 12.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

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

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

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

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 the management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with s.130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records; or
- statutory fees were not accounted for correctly

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

Barrie Cross ACA
The Barker Partnership
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors
17 Central Buildings
Market Place
Thirsk
North Yorkshire
YO7 1HD

Date:

Parochial Church Council of St Oswald's Sowerby

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31st December 2022

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2022 Total £	2021 Total £
Incoming and endowments from:				
Voluntary Income				
Giving through Gift Aid	47,898	-	47,898	40,151
Tax Refunds	14,026	-	14,026	12,227
Other planned Giving	5,504	-	5,504	5,364
Collection Plate	2,229	-	2,229	1,715
Occasional & Other Services	2,703	3,977	6,680	5,485
Donations				
General	6,519	0	6,519	32,341
Donations - Contactless	534	-	534	0
Donations into CandY account & Gift Aid	7,370	-	7,370	6,181
Donations from other Parishes re CandY	7,958	-	7,958	0
Legacy Received	0	-	0	1,000
Wall box & Bookstall	119	-	119	31
Photocopying	62	-	62	77
	94,922	**3,977**	**98,899**	**104,572**
Other				
Fees Received				
PCC	8,982	-	8,982	9,834
Organist & Choir	910	-	910	1,190
Bell Ringers	270	-	270	0
YDBF	3,975	-	3,975	4,557
Income from Events				
Sunday Coffee	370	-	370	90
Fund Raising & Sale of Furniture	2,084	-	2,084	1,835
Sowerby Music	320	-	320	120
Other hire of Church	975	-	975	765
CandY Activity Income	392	-	392	941
Recurring Grants				
Wayleave & Rent	122	-	122	121
Sowerby Parish Council	0	-	0	1,200
	18,399	**0**	**18,399**	**20,653**
Other trading activities				
Parochial Hall Income (note 12)	14,350	-	14,350	7,098
Parochial Hall Earnings from 100 Club	1,684	-	1,684	1,662
Parochial Hall Refurbishment Grants	28,774		28,774	0
Parochial Hall Donations Received	540	-	540	1,967
Transfers from CandY Account (note 11)	2,500	-	2,500	3,500
Soup Lunch Donations	0	876	876	0
	47,848	**876**	**48,724**	**14,228**
Investments				
Dividends (Gross) & Bank Interest	1,098	-	1,098	1,166
	1,098	**0**	**1,098**	**1,166**
Total Incoming Resources	**162,267**	**4853**	**167,120**	**140,619**
Expenditure on				
Charitable activities (see note 3)	**160,924**	**4766**	**165,689**	**133,067**
Net income/(expenditure) before gains/(losses) on investments	**1,343**	**87**	**1,431**	**7,552**
Net gains/(losses) on investments	**-1,376**	-	**-1,376**	**3,212**
Net movement of Funds	**-33**	**87**	**55**	**10,764**
Balances b/fwd 1 January 2022	**46,747**	**3066**	**49,813**	**39,049**
Balances c/fwd 31 December 2022	**46,714**	**3153**	**49,867**	**49,813**

Parochial Church Council of St Oswald's Sowerby
Balance Sheet
as at 31 December 2022

	Note	2022	2021
		£	£
Fixed Assets	1	**2,438**	**2,843**
Current Assets			
Investments	4	31,176	31,850
Debtors	5	3,729	4,565
Bank Accounts	6	14,575	15,556
Prepayments		271	644
Cash Balances		200	450
		49,951	**53,064**
Creditors			
Sundry Creditors	7	314	1,338
100 Club Deposits for following year	7	2,208	2,256
CandY donations received in advance	10	0	2,500
	6	**2,522**	**6,094**
Net Current Assets		**49,867**	**49,813**
Represented by:			
Unrestricted Funds	8	46,714	46,747
Restricted Funds	9	3,153	3,066
Net Funds		**49,867**	**49,813**

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 14 March 2023
and signed on its behalf by

Revd David Sivyer

S C BIRKBECK.

1 Accounting Policies

1.1 Accounting Convention

The accounts are prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102 – (Charities SORP (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.
The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets which are shown at market value.

1.2 Funds

General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted.
The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body or those that are informal gatherings of church members.

1.3 Incoming Resources

Voluntary income and capital sources
Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC. Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid is recognised only when received. Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when received. Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for when received. Funds raised by events are accounted for gross. Sales of books and magazines are accounted for gross.
Other income
Income from the Parochial Hall is recognised when due.
Income from bank investments
Bank interest entitlements are accounted for as they accrue and appear gross.

1.4 Resources expended

The diocesan parish share is accounted for when it is paid. The PCC has paid its full share within the year.

1.5 Balance Sheet – Fixed Assets

Consecrated property and moveable church furnishings
Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind is excluded from the accounts by S10(2a) of the Charities Act 2011.
Moveable church furnishings held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC, and which require a faculty for disposal, are accounted as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the church's inventory which can be inspected at any reasonable time. For inalienable property acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the accounts.
Expenditure incurred in the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings, individual items under £1000 or on the repair of movable church items acquired before 1 January 2000 is written off.

Other Fixtures and Fittings
Depreciation is provided at 10% of cost on Hall Furniture and Equipment which is calculated to write off the cost less residual value of each asset over its useful life. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £1000 or less will be written off as the asset is acquired.

2 Net Incoming/Outgoing Resources

	2022	2021
	£	£
This is stated after charging:		
Depreciation and other amounts written off tangible fixed assets	**405**	**405**
Reporting accountant's fees	**250**	**250**

Parochial Church Council of St Oswald's Sowerby

Note 3	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2022 Total £	2021 Total £
Charitable activities				
Freewill Offering	60,000	0	60,000	57,500
Salaries, Honoraria and YDBF				
YDBF	3,975	-	3,975	4,557
CandY Salaries and on-costs	21,743	-	21,743	11,766
Organist and Choir - inc Occ. Services	1,925	-	1,925	1,765
Bellringers - Occ. Services	270	-	270	0
	27,913	**0**	**27,913**	**18,088**
Expenses of Clergy and CandY Staff				
Vicarage Costs	960	-	960	955
Mileage Allowance	500	-	500	494
Expense for CandY work	1,132	-	1,132	1,399
Gifts	98	-	98	58
Visiting Vicars	0	-	0	25
Mission Outreach	428	-	428	292
Training & Resources	656	-	656	143
	3,774	**0**	**3,774**	**3,365**
Church Running Costs				
Cleaning	1,618	-	1,618	1,609
Insurance	1,895	-	1,895	1,860
Candles and Service Costs	531	-	531	142
Repairs	1,301	-	1,301	1,936
Organ	0	-	0	0
Churchyard	2,213	-	2,213	3,111
	7,557	**0**	**7,557**	**8,659**
Church Utilities				
Gas	2,867	-	2,867	2,885
Water Rates	150	-	150	190
Electricity	915	-	915	694
	3,932	**0**	**3,932**	**3,769**
Church Administration				
Computer, Phone & Broadband	2,403	-	2,403	473
Professional Fees	756	-	756	797
Website Development	1,920	-	1,920	0
Brokerage and Commission Fees	373	-	373	609
Bank Charges	238		238	17
Licences and Subscriptions	998	-	998	939
Postage and Stationery	352	-	352	272
Copier Costs	1,853	-	1,853	3,031
	8,895	**0**	**8,895**	**6,137**
Donations to Charities				
Overseas Mission - from own Funds	3,800	-	3,800	3,800
Crimestoppers / 2021 Sowerby Primary	214	0	214	7,553
Other - special and funeral collections	-	3,977	3,977	2,725
	4,014	**3,977**	**7,991**	**14,078**
Costs of generating funds				
Parochial Hall (note 12)				
Operating costs	12,314	-	12,314	10,222
Exceptional expenditure	27,793	-	27,793	441
Cost of Copying Saints Alive	-	-	-	150
Luncheon Club paid over to Soup Lunch	-	250	250	0
Soup Lunch Costs	-	539	539	0
	40,108	**789**	**40,896**	**10,813**
Fabric Costs				
Fabric Costs	4,731	-	4,731	10,657
	4,731	**0.00**	**4,731**	**10,657**
Total charitable activities	**160,924**	**4,766**	**165,689**	**133,067**

4 Investments

During 2009 the Church became entitled to the Arthur Dreyheller Thompson Trust Fund following the death of the residuary life tenant. The investments are quoted in the accounts at market value as at 31st December 2022. The use of this fund is unrestricted.

5 Debtors

	2022	2021
	£	£
Hall Hire	3,298	1,894
Gift Aid and Tax Credits from HMRC	0	2,250
Due from Benefice parishes & others for administrative costs & copying	431	421
	3,729	**4,565**

6 Bank Accounts

	£	£
Church	1,634	1,394
Parochial Hall	427	2,383
Deposit	10,642	6,420
"Sowerby CandY" (Note 10)	1,872	5,359
	14,575	**15,556**

7 Creditors: Falling due within one year and more

	£	£
Gas bills for Church and Hall	314	1,338
Hall 100Club – 2022 Subscriptions	2,208	2,256
Donations from Thirsk Methodist Circuit to be spread over 5 years commencing 2017 (see note 10)	0	2,500
	2,522	**6,094**

8 Analysis of Net Assets by Funds

	Unrestricted	*Restricted*	*Total*
	£	£	£
Fixed Assets	2,438	0	2,438
Current Assets	46,798	3,153	49,951
Current Liabilities	2,522	0	2,522
Fund Balance	**46,714**	**3,153**	**49,867**

9 Unrestricted Funds

Designated funds are included in unrestricted funds and are for the maintenance and improvement of the Parochial Church Hall. See note 11

10 Analysis of Restricted Funds

	1/1/2022	Movement In	Movement Out	31/12/2022
	£	£	£	£
Bells	898	0	0	898
Charity	0	3,977	3,977	0
Saints Alive	750	0	0	750
Mexico 2021 Trip	1,168	0	0	1,168
Lunch Club	250	0	250	0
Soup Lunches	0	876	539	337
	3,066	**4,853**	**4,766**	**3,153**

Saints Alive is the residue of money handed over from the old joint Saints Alive account. The Bells account is a long-standing fund from which repairs are taken over time. Mexico 2021 is deposits taken on a proposed youth trip now deferred.

11 **Sowerby CandY**

This account is a joint venture between St Oswald's Church and Sowerby Methodist Church. It is a vehicle for raising money to support children's and youth work. The activity is reflected in St Oswald's accounts as a restricted fund for convenience and transparency.
Gifts have been received from the Thirsk Methodist Circuit which, for prudence, have been spread over current and future years. A gift of £5353.75 received in 2018 was used in full for the development of the Annexe. The last gift made in June 2020 has now been fully utilised.

12 **Parochial Hall**

	2022 £	2021 £
Income		
Lettings	14,350	7,098
Earnings from 100 Club	1,684	1,662
Refurbishment Grants/Donations Received	28,774	0
Donations received	540	1,967
Total Income	**45,348**	**10,727**
Operating Costs for the year		
Caretaker & Cleaner	6,586	5,872
Cleaning Materials	316	161
Window Cleaning	260	390
Gas	1,337	840
Electricity	797	445
Water	437	103
Insurance	670	650
Miscellaneous repairs	800	395
Gas certificate and boiler repairs	391	324
Fire Protection & PAT Testing	175	0
Bank Charges	140	32
Grass Cutting	0	605
Depreciation of Equipment	405	405
Total Operating Costs	**12,314**	**10,222**
Exceptional Expenditure for the year		
Tree surgery on carpark trees	0	441
Refurbishment of Hall Interior	27,793	0
Total Exceptional Costs	**27,793**	**441**
Surplus for the year	**5,241**	**64**
Fund Balance at 1 January 2022	**3,056**	**2,992**
Residual Fund Balance at 31 December 2022	**8,297**	**3,056**

This fund is designated but not restricted.

Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of The Parochial Church Council of The Ecclesiastical Parish of St Oswald Sowerby

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022 which are set out on pages 7 to 12.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

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

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

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

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 the management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with s.130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records; or
- statutory fees were not accounted for correctly

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

Barrie Cross ACA
The Barker Partnership
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors
17 Central Buildings
Market Place
Thirsk
North Yorkshire
YO7 1HD

Date:

Parochial Church Council of St Oswald's Sowerby

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31st December 2022

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2022 Total £	2021 Total £
Incoming and endowments from:				
Voluntary Income				
Giving through Gift Aid	47,898	-	47,898	40,151
Tax Refunds	14,026	-	14,026	12,227
Other planned Giving	5,504	-	5,504	5,364
Collection Plate	2,229	-	2,229	1,715
Occasional & Other Services	2,703	3,977	6,680	5,485
Donations				
General	6,519	0	6,519	32,341
Donations - Contactless	534	-	534	0
Donations into CandY account & Gift Aid	7,370	-	7,370	6,181
Donations from other Parishes re CandY	7,958	-	7,958	0
Legacy Received	0	-	0	1,000
Wall box & Bookstall	119	-	119	31
Photocopying	62	-	62	77
	94,922	**3,977**	**98,899**	**104,572**
Other				
Fees Received				
PCC	8,982	-	8,982	9,834
Organist & Choir	910	-	910	1,190
Bell Ringers	270	-	270	0
YDBF	3,975	-	3,975	4,557
Income from Events				
Sunday Coffee	370	-	370	90
Fund Raising & Sale of Furniture	2,084	-	2,084	1,835
Sowerby Music	320	-	320	120
Other hire of Church	975	-	975	765
CandY Activity Income	392	-	392	941
Recurring Grants				
Wayleave & Rent	122	-	122	121
Sowerby Parish Council	0	-	0	1,200
	18,399	**0**	**18,399**	**20,653**
Other trading activities				
Parochial Hall Income (note 12)	14,350	-	14,350	7,098
Parochial Hall Earnings from 100 Club	1,684	-	1,684	1,662
Parochial Hall Refurbishment Grants	28,774		28,774	0
Parochial Hall Donations Received	540	-	540	1,967
Transfers from CandY Account (note 11)	2,500	-	2,500	3,500
Soup Lunch Donations	0	876	876	0
	47,848	**876**	**48,724**	**14,228**
Investments				
Dividends (Gross) & Bank Interest	1,098	-	1,098	1,166
	1,098	**0**	**1,098**	**1,166**
Total Incoming Resources	**162,267**	**4853**	**167,120**	**140,619**
Expenditure on				
Charitable activities (see note 3)	**160,924**	**4766**	**165,689**	**133,067**
Net income/(expenditure) before gains/(losses) on investments	**1,343**	**87**	**1,431**	**7,552**
Net gains/(losses) on investments	**-1,376**	-	**-1,376**	**3,212**
Net movement of Funds	**-33**	**87**	**55**	**10,764**
Balances b/fwd 1 January 2022	**46,747**	**3066**	**49,813**	**39,049**
Balances c/fwd 31 December 2022	**46,714**	**3153**	**49,867**	**49,813**

Parochial Church Council of St Oswald's Sowerby
Balance Sheet
as at 31 December 2022

	Note	2022	2021
		£	£
Fixed Assets	1	**2,438**	**2,843**
Current Assets			
Investments	4	31,176	31,850
Debtors	5	3,729	4,565
Bank Accounts	6	14,575	15,556
Prepayments		271	644
Cash Balances		200	450
		49,951	**53,064**
Creditors			
Sundry Creditors	7	314	1,338
100 Club Deposits for following year	7	2,208	2,256
CandY donations received in advance	10	0	2,500
	6	**2,522**	**6,094**
Net Current Assets		**49,867**	**49,813**
Represented by:			
Unrestricted Funds	8	46,714	46,747
Restricted Funds	9	3,153	3,066
Net Funds		**49,867**	**49,813**

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 14 March 2023
and signed on its behalf by

Revd David Sivyer

S C BIRKBECK.

1 Accounting Policies

1.1 Accounting Convention

The accounts are prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102 – (Charities SORP (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.
The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets which are shown at market value.

1.2 Funds

General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted.
The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body or those that are informal gatherings of church members.

1.3 Incoming Resources

Voluntary income and capital sources
Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC. Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid is recognised only when received. Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when received. Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for when received. Funds raised by events are accounted for gross. Sales of books and magazines are accounted for gross.
Other income
Income from the Parochial Hall is recognised when due.
Income from bank investments
Bank interest entitlements are accounted for as they accrue and appear gross.

1.4 Resources expended

The diocesan parish share is accounted for when it is paid. The PCC has paid its full share within the year.

1.5 Balance Sheet – Fixed Assets

Consecrated property and moveable church furnishings
Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind is excluded from the accounts by S10(2a) of the Charities Act 2011.
Moveable church furnishings held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC, and which require a faculty for disposal, are accounted as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the church's inventory which can be inspected at any reasonable time. For inalienable property acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the accounts.
Expenditure incurred in the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings, individual items under £1000 or on the repair of movable church items acquired before 1 January 2000 is written off.

Other Fixtures and Fittings
Depreciation is provided at 10% of cost on Hall Furniture and Equipment which is calculated to write off the cost less residual value of each asset over its useful life. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £1000 or less will be written off as the asset is acquired.

2 Net Incoming/Outgoing Resources

	2022	2021
	£	£
This is stated after charging:		
Depreciation and other amounts written off tangible fixed assets	**405**	**405**
Reporting accountant's fees	**250**	**250**

Parochial Church Council of St Oswald's Sowerby

Note 3	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2022 Total £	2021 Total £
Charitable activities				
Freewill Offering	60,000	0	60,000	57,500
Salaries, Honoraria and YDBF				
YDBF	3,975	-	3,975	4,557
CandY Salaries and on-costs	21,743	-	21,743	11,766
Organist and Choir - inc Occ. Services	1,925	-	1,925	1,765
Bellringers - Occ. Services	270	-	270	0
	27,913	**0**	**27,913**	**18,088**
Expenses of Clergy and CandY Staff				
Vicarage Costs	960	-	960	955
Mileage Allowance	500	-	500	494
Expense for CandY work	1,132	-	1,132	1,399
Gifts	98	-	98	58
Visiting Vicars	0	-	0	25
Mission Outreach	428	-	428	292
Training & Resources	656	-	656	143
	3,774	**0**	**3,774**	**3,365**
Church Running Costs				
Cleaning	1,618	-	1,618	1,609
Insurance	1,895	-	1,895	1,860
Candles and Service Costs	531	-	531	142
Repairs	1,301	-	1,301	1,936
Organ	0	-	0	0
Churchyard	2,213	-	2,213	3,111
	7,557	**0**	**7,557**	**8,659**
Church Utilities				
Gas	2,867	-	2,867	2,885
Water Rates	150	-	150	190
Electricity	915	-	915	694
	3,932	**0**	**3,932**	**3,769**
Church Administration				
Computer, Phone & Broadband	2,403	-	2,403	473
Professional Fees	756	-	756	797
Website Development	1,920	-	1,920	0
Brokerage and Commission Fees	373	-	373	609
Bank Charges	238		238	17
Licences and Subscriptions	998	-	998	939
Postage and Stationery	352	-	352	272
Copier Costs	1,853	-	1,853	3,031
	8,895	**0**	**8,895**	**6,137**
Donations to Charities				
Overseas Mission - from own Funds	3,800	-	3,800	3,800
Crimestoppers / 2021 Sowerby Primary	214	0	214	7,553
Other - special and funeral collections	-	3,977	3,977	2,725
	4,014	**3,977**	**7,991**	**14,078**
Costs of generating funds				
Parochial Hall (note 12)				
Operating costs	12,314	-	12,314	10,222
Exceptional expenditure	27,793	-	27,793	441
Cost of Copying Saints Alive	-	-	-	150
Luncheon Club paid over to Soup Lunch	-	250	250	0
Soup Lunch Costs	-	539	539	0
	40,108	**789**	**40,896**	**10,813**
Fabric Costs				
Fabric Costs	4,731	-	4,731	10,657
	4,731	**0.00**	**4,731**	**10,657**
Total charitable activities	**160,924**	**4,766**	**165,689**	**133,067**

4 Investments

During 2009 the Church became entitled to the Arthur Dreyheller Thompson Trust Fund following the death of the residuary life tenant. The investments are quoted in the accounts at market value as at 31st December 2022. The use of this fund is unrestricted.

5 Debtors

	2022	2021
	£	£
Hall Hire	3,298	1,894
Gift Aid and Tax Credits from HMRC	0	2,250
Due from Benefice parishes & others for administrative costs & copying	431	421
	3,729	**4,565**

6 Bank Accounts

	£	£
Church	1,634	1,394
Parochial Hall	427	2,383
Deposit	10,642	6,420
"Sowerby CandY" (Note 10)	1,872	5,359
	14,575	**15,556**

7 Creditors: Falling due within one year and more

	£	£
Gas bills for Church and Hall	314	1,338
Hall 100Club – 2022 Subscriptions	2,208	2,256
Donations from Thirsk Methodist Circuit to be spread over 5 years commencing 2017 (see note 10)	0	2,500
	2,522	**6,094**

8 Analysis of Net Assets by Funds

	Unrestricted	*Restricted*	*Total*
	£	£	£
Fixed Assets	2,438	0	2,438
Current Assets	46,798	3,153	49,951
Current Liabilities	2,522	0	2,522
Fund Balance	**46,714**	**3,153**	**49,867**

9 Unrestricted Funds

Designated funds are included in unrestricted funds and are for the maintenance and improvement of the Parochial Church Hall. See note 11

10 Analysis of Restricted Funds

	1/1/2022	Movement In	Movement Out	31/12/2022
	£	£	£	£
Bells	898	0	0	898
Charity	0	3,977	3,977	0
Saints Alive	750	0	0	750
Mexico 2021 Trip	1,168	0	0	1,168
Lunch Club	250	0	250	0
Soup Lunches	0	876	539	337
	3,066	**4,853**	**4,766**	**3,153**

Saints Alive is the residue of money handed over from the old joint Saints Alive account. The Bells account is a long-standing fund from which repairs are taken over time. Mexico 2021 is deposits taken on a proposed youth trip now deferred.

11 **Sowerby CandY**

This account is a joint venture between St Oswald's Church and Sowerby Methodist Church. It is a vehicle for raising money to support children's and youth work. The activity is reflected in St Oswald's accounts as a restricted fund for convenience and transparency.
Gifts have been received from the Thirsk Methodist Circuit which, for prudence, have been spread over current and future years. A gift of £5353.75 received in 2018 was used in full for the development of the Annexe. The last gift made in June 2020 has now been fully utilised.

12 **Parochial Hall**

	2022 £	2021 £
Income		
Lettings	14,350	7,098
Earnings from 100 Club	1,684	1,662
Refurbishment Grants/Donations Received	28,774	0
Donations received	540	1,967
Total Income	**45,348**	**10,727**
Operating Costs for the year		
Caretaker & Cleaner	6,586	5,872
Cleaning Materials	316	161
Window Cleaning	260	390
Gas	1,337	840
Electricity	797	445
Water	437	103
Insurance	670	650
Miscellaneous repairs	800	395
Gas certificate and boiler repairs	391	324
Fire Protection & PAT Testing	175	0
Bank Charges	140	32
Grass Cutting	0	605
Depreciation of Equipment	405	405
Total Operating Costs	**12,314**	**10,222**
Exceptional Expenditure for the year		
Tree surgery on carpark trees	0	441
Refurbishment of Hall Interior	27,793	0
Total Exceptional Costs	**27,793**	**441**
Surplus for the year	**5,241**	**64**
Fund Balance at 1 January 2022	**3,056**	**2,992**
Residual Fund Balance at 31 December 2022	**8,297**	**3,056**

This fund is designated but not restricted.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST OSWALD SOWERBY

England & Wales - Charity number 1135485

Accounts

Parochial Church Council of St Oswald's Sowerby
Annual Trustees Report for the year ended 31 December 2021

Incumbent: In vacancy until 30 July 2021. From 31 July, Revd David Biggs (Priest-in-Charge)

Assistant Priest: Revd Pauline Percy

Independent Examiner: Mr William Pearson FCA, FCCA

Bankers: HSBC Independent Financial Advisor: Ellis Bates Group

Church Architect: David Beaumont

Website: www.stoswaldsowerby.org.uk Facebook: www.facebook.com/stoswaldsowerby

Administrative information
St Oswald's Church is situated in Sowerby in North Yorkshire. It is part of the Diocese of York within the Church of England. The current correspondence address is: 162 Front Street, Sowerby YO7 1JG

Members of the Parochial Church Council
Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. In 2021 the APCM was on 25 April 2021.
During the year the following served as members of the PCC:

Churchwardens (*ex officio*):	David Tucker (joint Vice Chair) Simon Birkbeck (joint Vice Chair)
Priest-in-Charge (*ex officio*):	From 31 July 2021 - Revd David Biggs
Assistant Priest (*ex officio*):	Revd Pauline Percy
Reader:	David Brooke
Children and Youth Worker:	Pauline Alderson
Recognised Parish Assistants:	Cecily Rands Helen Irving Yvonne Bowling
Deanery Synod (*ex officio*):	Gayle Hartley Sue Binns Jill Drew

Elected Members from 25 April 2021

Retiring 2022:	Yvonne Bowling Richard Halkyard Andrew McCormack Graham Merriam (Treasurer) (Standing C'ttee)
Retiring 2023	Helen Irving (Standing Committee) David Brooke Jane Jackson

Retiring 2024	Maureen Carr Pauline Alderson (Standing Committee) Morna Stoakley
Co-opted Member	Cecily Rands

Structure, governance and management

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a corporate body established by the Church of England. It operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is registered as a separate charity with the Charity Commission.

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.

In normal circumstances the full PCC meets six times a year, or more as needed. (During the Covid-19 pandemic the PCC has often met using Zoom.) The PCC is supported by the Standing Committee, consisting of Church-wardens, Treasurer and Secretary and Children and Youth Worker. In addition, there are a few working groups which report to PCC. Our Deanery Synod Representatives attend meetings during the year and report back to the PCC.

Objectives of the PCC

St Oswald's PCC worked during the vacancy with the Area Dean the Rev Fiona Mayer-Jones (until 30 July 2021) and after that with the new Priest-In-Charge the Rev David Biggs in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also responsible for the management and maintenance of Sowerby Parochial Hall and Annexe. The Church, the Parochial Hall and the Annexe are normally well-used and valued community assets and a base for our service to members of the congregation and wider outreach to the parish as a whole. Sadly, during the pandemic, we have not been able to use the buildings to their normal extent.

Our Mission

At St Oswald's our Aims and Purposes are that we try to live out Jesus' call to love God and to love our neighbour.

Review of the year: Achievements and Performance

The year 2021 was dominated by the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic which continued throughout the year. In the early part of the year (from January to March) there were no services held in person in church. Subsequently almost all aspects of church fellowship, such as greeting each other, sitting together, the peace, taking communion and singing, were potential spreaders of the virus and were, therefore, largely limited during the year. A socially-distanced seating plan was implemented with the closure of alternate pews. The national response to the pandemic imposed restrictions on the normal freedoms of movement, association and worship and disrupted normal church life. Extensive advice was issued by the Diocese as the pandemic proceeded.

St Oswald's is normally open every day during daylight, but during the first half of the year was only open for private prayer on Mondays and Thursdays. When services resumed in late March, the socially distanced seating plan was implemented, no singing was allowed and all attending had to wear face coverings. Later in the year a small choir was permitted, pursuant to advice from the Diocese.

The St Oswald's weekly news-sheet and the monthly Saints Alive magazine, which had been circulated as paper copies, were very rapidly and effectively converted to email format, giving new opportunities for input. The news sheet was expanded to include reflections, prayers and internet links to hymns and songs in order to facilitate worship at home. Printed copies were delivered to those without internet access.

Later in the year, during the Autumn, we started to bring the services on-line using the Zoom video-conferencing service. This duly enabled members of the congregation to 'join' the service from home if they felt unable to attend in-person.

Funerals were able to take place with limited numbers of people attending throughout the year. Crematoria were similarly extremely restricted in how many people were allowed to attend. Grateful thanks are due to Rev Pauline Percy, Rev Sandra Howells and other visiting clergy for conducting these services during the vacancy and to John Kennedy for his commitment and service in the role of sexton, and to the sidespersons who assist.

Confirmations, baptisms and weddings were deferred in the early spring of 2021. Baptisms and Weddings began to be conducted again in late April 2021.

Youth work and work with children and families has always been a strength of St Oswald's, and this was very much the case during the pandemic. Pauline Alderson and Helen Irving, along with their supporting team, were responsible for maintaining and adapting this work to a very high degree, and even to increase contacts. This included making use of Zoom and delivering bags with craft materials, Bible stories and creative prayer resources for each youth and Kids Club member and for Messy Church families. Youth group continued to meet every week via Zoom up until Easter. They returned to meeting outdoors on the field at the Parochial Hall from April-July, continuing to meet in person from September.

In summer 2021 we were able to run an outdoor Holiday Club with limited numbers attending. Ongoing children's work had to be carefully considered during the remainder of the year. Outside services were held at Pentecost, Christingle and the Crib Service.

The Little Wonders toddler group began the year meeting on Zoom and using a private Facebook group for keeping in touch. Craft bags were provided for the children. In April, when outdoor gathering was permitted, Little Wonders began meeting in person again on the field next to the Parochial Hall. In June indoor sessions began in the Parochial Hall. The space in the hall enabled better social distancing and allowed more ventilation than was possible in church. Numbers at Little Wonders have continued to grow.

Open the Book returned to visiting schools in September, taking four Bible stories to Sowerby, Sessay & Keeble.

Godly Play was presented to Kids' club via Zoom twice a month until Easter, then on the field at the Parochial Hall until the school holidays. Since September we have continued to meet in the Godly Play Room. In February 2022 we returned to visiting schools once again.

Our long-standing Children's and Youth Worker, Pauline Alderson, decided to retire with effect from the end of 2021. We are extremely grateful to her for all the work she has undertaken in this role over the last ten years (and before that as a volunteer). We made the decision to replace her on a full-time basis and interviewed candidates in mid-December. Our new Children's and Youth Minister will commence work in early 2022.

A number of events which are both a means of contact with the wider parish and a source of income were impossible during 2021. The Daffodil Festival at Easter and the autumn Coffee

Cakes and Crafts event both had to be cancelled. There was however an outdoor, socially distanced Summer Fair held on the Parochial Hall field on 14 August 2021.

A public service on Remembrance Sunday 14 November took place at the war memorial and the church was beautifully decorated with flowers and the outside walls with knitted and crocheted poppies. Many thanks to Barbara Thornton and her team for continuing to provide flower arrangements and to Kath Reynard for tending the outdoor planters.

The annual meetings took place using Zoom on 25 April 2021.

Giving, Mission and Community

We continued to support Jigsaw Kids Ministries in the Philippines through regular gifts to CMS (to support their mission partner Tim Lee) and to Jigsaw directly. This project was also adversely affected by Covid-19, and the support of churches in the UK was vital to their continuance. We were inspired to hear from Tim Lee at one of our Zoom services about the ways in which Jigsaw had responded and adapted during the pandemic to meet the needs of the community it serves.

We regularly support Thirsk Community Works in their service to the wider community. Our harvest gifts and occasional offerings on special services (e.g., Christmas) have been given to them. We have a box in church available for non-perishable food donations towards their food bank.

The Parochial Hall is a valued community asset. During the pandemic many of the activities there, both church-related and community bookings, ceased. The 100 Club which raises funds towards the running costs was able to continue and increased its contribution to the Hall's income.

Pastoral work: The disruption caused by the pandemic, including the postponement of some hospital operations and radical changes in GP and dental services, together with loneliness caused by being unable to have visitors or get out to socialise, contributed to a high level of anxiety and distress in the community. Our pastoral Recognised Parish Assistants (RPA), Cecily Rands and Yvonne Bowling continued their support of elderly and vulnerable people as far as the Coronavirus restrictions allowed.

The Mothers' Union remained in touch with members by letter. Meetings were not possible.

The Prayer Circle continued to operate throughout 2021 to support those in particular need of prayer. Many thanks to Jill Drew for coordinating this.

Farming chaplaincy: Yvonne Bowling continued her work as an assistant chaplain working under Rev Dianne Gamble to provide support to the farming community at the Auction Mart located in the parish.

Ecumenical relations: St Oswald's values the covenant with the Methodist Church, but the pandemic prevented most ecumenical activities, including the Easter and Harvest parish leaflet distribution. However, a joint Christmas card (with the Salvation Army) was distributed using the delivery team. The children and youth team have continued to work ecumenically and joint services were produced to celebrate Pentecost and Harvest.

Safeguarding

Elizabeth Allen continues as our Safeguarding Officer. All PCC members are DBS checked and must complete a Confidential Declaration Form and complete an on-line safeguarding training course. St Oswald's PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishop's guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

Financial review: 2021 has been a challenging year. The PCC recognised early on that Covid-19 was likely to have a continued effect on various essential items of income – including lettings of the Parochial Hall. We were only able to pledge a reduced Freewill Offering (FWO) of £48,000 to York Diocese. Subsequent generous giving enabled us however to provide additional funds to the diocese resulting in a final FWO of £57,500. This was not far short of the amount pledged prior to Covid-19 back in 2019. Our portfolio, in medium to low-risk investments, was revalued upwards by £3,212 and we derived £1,166 dividend income. Our Hall net income improved from a loss of £4,972 in 2021 to a surplus of £64. Plate Collections and Fees for occasional services improved but still fell short of pre-Covid levels. The finances at the end of the year were on an even keel. Many thanks to Graham Merriam for the financial leadership he has given as treasurer throughout the year and to Gayle Hartley for all the detailed financial administration.

Reserves Policy

It is the PCC's intention to spend those Reserves that are Restricted on their defined purposes, in due course. Unrestricted Reserves include an amount that is Designated for the Parochial Hall and the PCC aims to safeguard these for an ongoing plan of refurbishment. The remainder of Unrestricted Reserves represent approximately three months income which the PCC feels is the minimum that it should aim to hold for normal levels of activity.

The Vacancy

An interview for the role of Priest-in-Charge (PIC) of this plurality was held in March 2021. Subsequent to this, the Revd. David Biggs was appointed as PIC, commencing on 31 July 2021.

The Vicarage remained unlet throughout the vacancy as estate agents failed to find a tenant. Improvements and repairs were made to the house (by the Diocese) before the new PIC began his ministry here.

During the vacancy, the Area Dean, Revd Fiona Mayer-Jones, provided frequent and valued support to the leadership team. We were very grateful also to the Revd Pauline Percy (Assistant Priest) and the Revd Sandra Howells (Retired Priest with Permission to Officiate) for their ministry to us.

Thanks

Grateful thanks are expressed to all at St Oswald's who have worked so hard, sometimes in different ways from normal, and with so much dedication for the benefit of the church and wider community.

May we continue to love God and our neighbours near and far as we seek to serve Christ in this place.

We look forward to greater freedoms following the end of the restrictions caused by the pandemic but remember that our hope is always in Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

Approved by the PCC on 8 March 2022, and signed on their behalf.

David Tucker
Simon Birkbeck

Churchwardens

Rev David Biggs

Priest-in-Charge

Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of The Parochial Church Council of The Ecclesiastical Parish of St Oswald Sowerby

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2021 which are set out on pages 7 to 12.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

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

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

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

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 the management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with s.130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records; or
- statutory fees were not accounted for correctly

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

W G Pearson

William Pearson FCA FCCA
The Barker Partnership
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors
17 Central Buildings
Market Place
Thirsk
North Yorkshire
YO7 1HD

Date: 22/03/2022

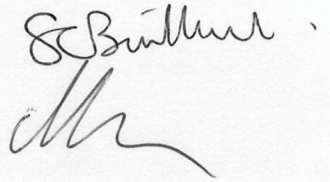
Parochial Church Council of St Oswald's Sowerby
Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31st December 2021

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2021 Total £	2020 Total £
Incoming and endowments from:				
Voluntary Income				
Giving through Gift Aid	40,151	-	40,151	40,395
Tax Refunds	12,227	-	12,227	10,971
Other planned Giving	5,364	-	5,364	4,399
Collection Plate	1,715	-	1,715	1,953
Occasional & Other Services	2,759	2,725	5,485	6,654
Donations				
General (Incl School Appeal)	24,788	7,553	32,341	16,666
Donations into CandY account & Gift Aid	6,181	-	6,181	9,563
Legacy Received	1,000	-	1,000	0
Wall box & Bookstall	31	-	31	13
Photocopying	77	-	77	353
	94,294	**10,278**	**104,572**	**90,968**
Other				
Fees Received				
PCC	9,834	-	9,834	9,574
Organist & Choir	1,190	-	1,190	840
Bell Ringers	0	-	0	110
YDBF	4,557	-	4,557	4,533
Income from Events				
Sunday Coffee	90	-	90	95
Fund Raising	1,835	-	1,835	1,860
Sowerby Music	120	-	120	88
Other hire of Church	765	-	765	640
CandY Activity Income	941	-	941	270
Recurring Grants				
Wayleave & Rent	121	-	121	121
Sowerby Parish Council	1,200	-	1,200	1,000
	20,653	**0**	**20,653**	**19,131**
Other trading activities				
Parochial Hall Income (note 12)	7,098	-	7,098	5,517
Parochial Hall Earnings from 100 Club	1,662	-	1,662	1,071
Parochial Hall Donations Received	1,967	-	1,967	480
Transfers from CandY Account	3,500	-	3,500	2,708
Saints Alive Income	-	-	0	1,201
Luncheon Club earnings	-	0	0	268
	14,228	**0**	**14,228**	**11,246**
Investments				
Dividends (Gross) & Bank Interest	1,166	-	1,166	1,286
	1,166	**0**	**1,166**	**1,286**
Total Incoming Resources	**130,341**	**10,278**	**140,619**	**122,632**
Expenditure on				
Charitable activities (see note 3)	**120,301**	**12,765**	**133,067**	**122,311**
Net income/(expenditure) before gains/(losses) on investments	**10,039**	**-2,487**	**7,552**	**321**
Net gains/(losses) on investments	**3,212**	-	**3,212**	**-3,250**
Net movement of Funds	**13,251**	**-2,487**	**10,764**	**-2,929**
Balances b/fwd 1 January 2021	**33,496**	**5,553**	**39,049**	**41,978**
Balances c/fwd 31 December 2021	**46,747**	**3,066**	**49,813**	**39,049**

Parochial Church Council of St Oswald's Sowerby
Balance Sheet
as at 31 December 2021

	Note	2021	2020
		£	£
Fixed Assets	1	**2,843**	**3,248**
Current Assets			
Investments	3	31,850	28,329
Debtors	4	4,565	3,292
Bank Accounts	5	15,556	12,416
Prepayments		644	86
Cash Balances		450	450
		53,064	**44,573**
Creditors			
Sundry Creditors		1,338	0
100 Club Deposits for following year		2,256	2,772
CandY donations received in advance	10	2,500	6,000
	6	**6,094**	**8,772**
Net Current Assets		**49,813**	**39,049**
Represented by:			
Unrestricted Funds	8	46,747	33,496
Restricted Funds	9	3,066	5,553
Net Funds		**49,813**	**39,049**

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 8 March 2022
and signed on its behalf by



Parochial Church Council of St Oswald's Sowerby
Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 December 2021

1 Accounting Policies

1.1 Accounting Convention

The accounts are prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102 – (Charities SORP (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.
The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets which are shown at market value.

1.2 Funds

General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted.
The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body or those that are informal gatherings of church members.

1.3 Incoming Resources

Voluntary income and capital sources
Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC. Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid is recognised only when received. Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when received. Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for when received. Funds raised by events are accounted for gross. Sales of books and magazines are accounted for gross.
Other income
Income from the Parochial Hall is recognised when due.
Income from bank investments
Bank interest entitlements are accounted for as they accrue and appear gross.

1.4 Resources expended

The diocesan parish share is accounted for when it is paid. The PCC has paid its full share within the year.

1.5 Balance Sheet – Fixed Assets

Consecrated property and moveable church furnishings
Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind is excluded from the accounts by S10(2a) of the Charities Act 2011.
Moveable church furnishings held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC, and which require a faculty for disposal, are accounted as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the church's inventory which can be inspected at any reasonable time. For inalienable property acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the accounts.
Expenditure incurred in the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings, individual items under £1000 or on the repair of movable church items acquired before 1 January 2000 is written off.

Other Fixtures and Fittings
Depreciation is provided at 10% of cost on Hall Furniture and Equipment which is calculated to write off the cost less residual value of each asset over its useful life. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £1000 or less will be written off as the asset is acquired.

2 Net Incoming/Outgoing Resources

	2021	2020
	£	£
This is stated after charging:		
Depreciation and other amounts written off tangible fixed assets	**405**	**405**
Reporting accountant's fees	**250**	**250**

Parochial Church Council of St Oswald's Sowerby

Note 3	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2021 Total	2020 Total
Charitable activities	£	£	£	£
Freewill Offering	**57,500**	**0**	**57,500**	**61,200**
Salaries, Honoraria and YDBF				
YDBF	4,557	-	4,557	4,533
CandY Salaries and on-costs	11,766	-	11,766	11,332
Administrator and on-costs	0	-	0	965
Organist and Choir - inc Occ. Services	1,765	-	1,765	1,165
Bellringers - Occ. Services	0	-	0	90
	18,088	**0**	**18,088**	**18,085**
Expenses of Clergy and CandY Staff				
Vicarage Costs	955	-	955	1,127
Mileage Allowance	494	-	494	243
Expense for CandY work	1,013	386	1,399	381
Gifts	58	-	58	20
Visiting Vicars	25	-	25	36
Mission Outreach	292	-	292	264
Training & Resources	143	-	143	77
	2,979	**386**	**3,365**	**2,149**
Church Running Costs				
Cleaning	1,609	-	1,609	1,357
Insurance	1,860	-	1,860	1,808
Candles and Service Costs	142	-	142	272
Repairs	1,936	-	1,936	1,016
Organ	0	-	0	100
Churchyard	3,111	-	3,111	1,498
	8,659	**0**	**8,659**	**6,050**
Church Utilities				
Gas	2,885	-	2,885	3,702
Water Rates	190	-	190	366
Electricity	694	-	694	494
	3,769	**0**	**3,769**	**4,562**
Church Administration				
Computer, Phone & Broadband	473	-	473	1,154
Professional Fees	797	-	797	738
Brokerage and Commission Fees	609	-	609	276
Bank Charges	17		17	0
Licences and Subscriptions	939	-	939	900
Postage and Stationery	272	-	272	218
Copier Costs	3,031	-	3,031	3,347
	6,137	**0**	**6,137**	**6,633**
Donations to Charities				
Overseas Mission - from own Funds	3,800	-	3,800	3,800
Paid over to School Appeal	0	7,553	7,553	0
Other - special and funeral collections	-	2,725	2,725	3,451
	3,800	**10,278**	**14,078**	**7,251**
Costs of generating funds				
Parochial Hall (note 11)				
Operating costs	10,222	-	10,222	10,814
Exceptional expenditure	441	-	441	862
CandY money paid to Church	-	-	-	2,708
Cost of Copying Saints Alive	-	150	150	301
Luncheon Club costs	-	0	0	632
	10,663	**150**	**10,813**	**15,317**
Fabric Costs				
Architect's Fees	0	-	0	1,064
Fabric Costs	8,706	1,951	10,657	0
	8,706	**1,951**	**10,657**	**1,064**
Total charitable activities	**120,301**	**12,765**	**133,067**	**122,311**

4 Investments

During 2009 the Church became entitled to the Arthur Dreyheller Thompson Trust Fund following the death of the residuary life tenant. The investments are quoted in the accounts at market value as at 31st December 2021. The use of this fund is unrestricted.

5 Debtors

	2021	2020
	£	£
Hall Hire	1,894	785
Gift Aid and Tax Credits from HMRC	2,250	780
Due from Benefice parishes & others for administrative costs & copying	421	809
Due from nPower as a result of excess direct debits	0	918
	4,565	**3,292**

6 Bank Accounts

	£	£
Church	1,394	1,578
Parochial Hall	2,383	1,834
Deposit	6,420	3,004
"Sowerby CandY" (Note 10)	5,359	6,000
	15,556	**12,416**

7 Creditors: Falling due within one year and more

	£	£
Gas bills for Church and Hall	1,338	0
Hall 100Club – 2022 Subscriptions	2,256	2,772
Donations from Thirsk Methodist Circuit to be spread over 5 years commencing 2017 (see note 10)	2,500	6,000
	6,094	**8,772**

8 Analysis of Net Assets by Funds

	Unrestricted	*Restricted*	*Total*
	£	£	£
Fixed Assets	2,843	0	2,843
Current Assets	49,998	3,066	53,064
Current Liabilities	6,094	0	6,094
Fund Balance	**46,747**	**3,066**	**49,813**

9 Unrestricted Funds

Designated funds are included in unrestricted funds and are for the maintenance and improvement of the Parochial Church Hall. See note 11

10 Analysis of Restricted Funds

	1/1/2021	Movement In	Movement Out	31/12/2021
	£	£	£	£
Bells	898	0	0	898
Charity	0	2,725	2,725	0
Saints Alive	900	0	150	750
Mexico 2021 Trip	1,168	0	0	1,168
Oakes Weekend	386	0	386	0
Martin Ridsdale Lighting Fund	1,951	0	1,951	0
Lunch Club	250	0	0	250
Appeal for Sowerby Primary IT	0	7,553	7,553	0
	5,553	**10,278**	**12,765**	**3,066**

Saints Alive is the residue of money handed over from the Saints Alive account that has not been used for production costs in 2020. The Bells account is a long-standing fund from which repairs are taken over time. Mexico 2021 is deposits taken on a proposed youth trip now deferred to 2022

Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of The Parochial Church Council of The Ecclesiastical Parish of St Oswald Sowerby

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2021 which are set out on pages 7 to 12.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

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

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Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

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W G Pearson

William Pearson FCA FCCA
The Barker Partnership
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors
17 Central Buildings
Market Place
Thirsk
North Yorkshire
YO7 1HD

Date: 22/03/2022

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST OSWALD SOWERBY

England & Wales - Charity number 1135485

Accounts

Parochial Church Council of St Oswald's Sowerby
Annual Trustees Report for the year ended 31 December 2020

Incumbent: in vacancy
Assistant Priest: Revd Pauline Percy

Independent Examiner: Mr William Pearson ACA, FCCA
Bankers: HSBC
Church Architect: David Beaumont
Independent Financial Advisor: Ellis Bates Group

Website: www.stoswaldsowerby.org.uk
Facebook: www.facebook.com/stoswaldsowerby

Administrative information
St Oswald's Church is situated in Sowerby in North Yorkshire. It is part of the Diocese of York within the Church of England. The current correspondence address is: 162 Front Street, Sowerby YO7 1JN

Members of the Parochial Church Council
Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. In 2020 the APCM was on 22 November 2020.

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

Churchwardens (*ex officio*):	David Tucker (joint Vice Chair)
	Simon Birkbeck (joint Vice Chair)
Assistant Priest (*ex officio*):	Revd Pauline Percy
Reader	David Brooke
Recognised Parish Assistants	Cecily Rands
	Helen Irving
	Yvonne Bowling
Deanery Synod (*ex officio*)	Gayle Hartley
	Sue Binns
	Jill Drew

Elected Members from 22 November 2020

Retiring 2021	John Kennedy
	Maureen Carr
	Pauline Alderson (Standing Committee)
	Morna Stoakley
Retiring 2022	Yvonne Bowling
	Richard Halkyard
	Andrew McCormack
	Graham Merriam (Treasurer) (Standing C'tee)
Retiring 2023	Helen Irving (Standing Committee)
	David Brooke
	Jane Jackson

Structure, governance and management
The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a corporate body established by the Church of England. It operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is registered as a separate charity with the Charity Commission.

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.

In normal circumstances the full PCC meets six times a year or more as needed. (During the Covid-19 pandemic the PCC has met using Zoom.) The PCC is supported by the Standing Committee, consisting of Church-wardens, Treasurer and Secretary and Children and Youth Worker. In addition, there are a few working groups which report to PCC. Our Deanery Synod Representatives attend meetings during the year and report back to the PCC.

Objectives of the PCC
St Oswald's PCC works during the vacancy with the Area Dean the Rev Fiona Mayer-Jones in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also responsible for the management and maintenance of Sowerby Parochial Hall and Annexe. The Church, the Parochial Hall and the Annexe are normally well-used and valued community assets and a base for our service to members of the congregation and wider outreach to the parish as a whole. Sadly, during the pandemic, we have not been able to use the buildings to their normal extent.

Our Mission
At St Oswald's our Aims and Purposes are that we try to live out Jesus' call to love God and to love our neighbour.

Review of the year: Achievements and Performance
It can fairly be said that 2020 was a year unlike any other in living memory because of two factors: The Coronavirus pandemic and the continuing vacancy.
It was dominated by the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic which emerged at the start of the year. Almost all aspects of church fellowship, such as a greeting each other, sitting together, the peace, taking communion and singing, were potent spreaders of the virus and were, therefore, largely proscribed during the year. The national response to the pandemic imposed massive restrictions on the normal freedoms of movement, association and worship and disrupted normal church life immensely.
St Oswald's is normally open every day during daylight, but from 17 March 2020, following Government guidelines and on the advice of the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, it was closed for all regular services, and later in the year only open for private prayer on Mondays and Thursdays. When services resumed, a socially distanced seating plan was implemented, no singing was allowed and all attending had to wear face coverings. Late in the year a small choir was permitted, pursuant to advice from the Diocese.
The St Oswald's weekly news-sheet and the monthly Saints Alive magazine, which had been circulated as paper copies, were very rapidly and effectively converted to email format, giving new opportunities for input. The news sheet was expanded to include reflections, prayers and internet links to hymns and songs in order to facilitate worship at home. Printed copies were delivered to those without internet access.
Several services were pre-recorded and published on YouTube. We then began live, on-line services using the Zoom video-conferencing service. We have held Zoom services at fortnightly intervals since September 2020. 'Morning Praise' on the 1st Sunday and 'Worship for All' on the 3rd Sunday. These are followed by 'virtual' coffee time in breakout rooms. Many people have valued the opportunity to talk to each other which this provides. A special mention must be made of the work of Lay Reader David Brooke in organising this and in providing the leadership at many of these services. Christingle, Carol and Crib services were also held on Zoom in December.

These fortnightly services alternated with services of Holy Communion every other week in church. We are tremendously grateful to both Rev Pauline Percy and Rev Sandra Howells in being able to hold these services along with a mid-week communion service.
Funerals were only able to take place with very limited numbers of people attending, at one stage at the graveside only, in order to reduce the chance of transmission of the virus. Crematoria were similarly extremely restricted in how many people were allowed to attend. Grateful thanks are due to Rev Pauline Percy, Rev Sandra Howells and other visiting clergy for conducting these services and to John Kennedy for his commitment and service in the role of sexton, and to the sidespersons who assist.
Confirmations, baptisms and weddings were entirely deferred.
Youth work and work with children and families has always been a strength of St Oswald's, and this was very much the case during the pandemic. Pauline Alderson and Helen Irving along with their supporting team were responsible for maintaining this work to a very high degree, and even to increase contacts. Making use of Zoom, delivering bags with craft materials, Bible stories and creative prayer resources for each youth & kids club member, and even running the annual Holiday Club by Zoom. We held a Messy Church in a bag at Pentecost, a family Treasure Hunt around Sowerby and a celebration of Saints as our alternative to Halloween in October which ran alongside a Saints & Light Treasure Hunt in Sowerby village.
The Little Wonders toddler group set up meetings on Zoom for parents or carers with pre-school children and a private Facebook group for keeping in touch. Craft & activity bags were delivered to all the families who meet weekly during term time. Some new families have joined.
'Open The Book', taking Bible stories into primary schools in the form of short acted-out dramas, continued in Sowerby, Sessay and Keeble Gateway Schools through January and February. This was then suspended as no visitors were allowed in schools. However, the 'Open The Book' team managed to record a Nativity in December 2020 which was then shown in four primary schools.
Godly Play, which makes use of the new Godly Play room in the Annexe and also by visits to schools, was unable to function in this form. However, the Godly Play leaders from Sowerby Methodist Church have led two of the Kids Club sessions per month via Zoom, using Godly Play stories and Feast sessions.
A number of events which are both a means of contact with the wider parish and a source of income were impossible during 2020. The Daffodil Festival at Easter and the autumn Coffee Cakes and Crafts event both had to be cancelled. There was however an outdoor, socially distanced Summer Fair held on the field near the annexe on 31 August.
Although there was no public service on Remembrance Sunday 8 November a small Act of Remembrance took place at the war memorial and the church was beautifully decorated with flowers and the outside walls with knitted poppies. Many thanks to Barbara Thornton and her team for continuing to provide flower arrangements and to Kath Reynard for tending the outdoor planters.
A Lent course was commenced in Orchid House, but this had to be curtailed as the pandemic intervened. A small study group amongst members from the 5 parishes was held in the autumn using Zoom which proved to be successful and will continue in 2021.
The annual meetings, which should normally take place early in the year, were postponed and eventually took place by Zoom on 22 November.

Giving, Mission and Community
We continued to support Jigsaw Kids Ministries in the Philippines through regular gifts to CMS (to support their mission partner Tim Lee) and to Jigsaw directly. This project was also adversely affected by Covid-19, and the support of churches in the UK was vital to their continuance. We were inspired to hear from Tim Lee at one of our Zoom services about the ways in which Jigsaw had responded and adapted during the pandemic to meet the needs of the community it serves.

We regularly support Thirsk Community Works in their service to the wider community. Our harvest gifts and occasional offerings on special services (e.g., Christmas) have been given to them. We have a box in church available for non-perishable food donations towards their food bank.

A diocesan mission weekend was held between 13th and 15th March with the title, 'Come and See'. We organised or participated in various events in the parish including an event with Bishop John at Orchid House, a Men's Breakfast, a special Messy Church and a 'Ladies Pamper Evening'.

The Parochial Hall is a valued community asset. During the pandemic almost all activities there, both church-related and community bookings, ceased. The 100 Club which raises funds towards the running costs was able to continue.
Pastoral work: The disruption caused by the pandemic, including the postponement of some hospital operations and radical changes in GP and dental services, together with loneliness caused by being unable to have visitors or get out to socialise, contributed to a high level of anxiety and distress in the community. Our pastoral Recognised Parish Assistants (RPA), Cecily Rands and Yvonne Bowling continued their support of elderly and vulnerable people as far as the Coronavirus restrictions allowed. A telephone support line was set up to keep in regular touch with members of the congregation during the first lockdown.
The 'Singing for Joy' sessions at Orchid House, Sowerby took place in January and February and a 'This is my story, this is my song' event (part of the 'Come and See' weekend in March) was enjoyed and well attended. Sadly, these sessions had to be stopped as a result of pandemic restrictions, but an out of doors half hour of carol singing brought a bit of Christmas cheer to residents in December.
The Mothers' Union remained in touch with members by letter. Meetings were not possible.
The Prayer Circle continued to operate throughout 2020 to support those in particular need of prayer. Many thanks to Jill Drew for coordinating this.

Farming chaplaincy: Yvonne Bowling continued her work as an assistant chaplain working under Rev Dianne Gamble to provide support to the farming community at the Auction Mart located in the parish.

Ecumenical relations: St Oswald's values the covenant with the Methodist Church, but the pandemic prevented most ecumenical activities, including the Easter and Harvest parish leaflet distribution. However, a joint Christmas card (with the Salvation Army) was distributed using the delivery team. The children and youth team have continued to work ecumenically and joint online services were produced to celebrate Pentecost and Harvest.
Churches Together: the normal Easter Walk of Witness and Christmas carol service could not take place. There was however a community drive-in carol service held at Thirsk Auction Mart on 20 December. This was very well supported with up to 100 cars attending each of two sessions.

Safeguarding
Elizabeth Allen continues as our Safeguarding Officer. All PCC members are DBS checked and must complete a Confidential Declaration Form and complete an on-line safeguarding training course. St Oswald's PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishop's guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

Financial review: 2020 has been a challenging year. The PCC recognised early on that Covid-19 was likely to impact heavily on not only the PCC's finances but our ability to meet our Freewill Offering of £61,200 to York Diocese. An appeal to the congregation raised just over £15,000 including Gift Aid. This enabled us to meet all our commitments with the consequence that our normal operating surplus for the year is £322 (2019 - deficit £9,703).

Our portfolio, in medium to low-risk investments, suffered a downward re-valuation of £3,250 but we still derived £1,286 dividend income. Our Hall income fell by some £7,000 and Plate Collections and Fees for occasional services also suffered. However, the finances at the end of the year are on an even keel although the Freewill Offering for 2021 has had to be significantly reduced in the light of ongoing COVID-19 restrictions. The congregation have, as ever, risen to this challenge most generously.

Reserves Policy
It is the PCC's intention to spend those Reserves that are Restricted on their defined purposes, in due course. Unrestricted Reserves include an amount that is Designated for the Parochial Hall and the PCC aims to safeguard these for an ongoing plan of refurbishment. The remainder of Unrestricted Reserves represent approximately three months income which the PCC feels is the minimum that it should aim to hold for normal levels of activity.

The Vacancy
Advertising and interviewing for an incumbent took place twice during 2020, despite pandemic restrictions, and on each occasions the successful candidate declined the offer of the incumbency. The parish was without an incumbent for the entire year. A review towards the end of the year identified that the pattern of a large "urban" or non-rural church with one set of activities and aspirations linked to a cluster of smaller rural churches with different aims is problematic. The deanery has now proposed a re-shaping of parish ministry within this area as the present arrangement of multiple smaller benefices is no longer working effectively. A decision was taken that a priest in charge (PIC) should be sought, as part of that reshaping process. It is proposed that the new PIC will work with the 5 parishes of this plurality and within the deanery to work towards a new, larger team structure.
The Vicarage remained unlet throughout the year as estate agents failed to find a tenant.
In extremely difficult circumstances the Area Dean, Revd Fiona Mayer-Jones, provided frequent and valued support to the leadership team. We are very grateful also to the Revd Pauline Percy (Assistant Priest) and the Revd Sandra Howells (Retired Priest) for their ministry to us.

Thanks
Grateful thanks are expressed to all at St Oswald's who have worked so hard, sometimes in different ways from normal, and with so much dedication for the benefit of the church and wider community. May we continue to love God and our neighbours near and far as we seek to serve Christ in this place.

As the year ended, the prospect of a mass vaccination programme to suppress the spread of the virus and the further advertising of the vacancy offer hope for better in 2021 and our hope is always in Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

Approved by the PCC on 16th March 2021, and signed on their behalf.

David Tucker
Simon Birkbeck

Churchwardens

Parochial Church Council of St Oswald's Sowerby

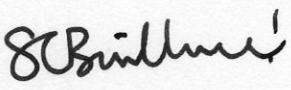
Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31st December 2020

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2020 Total £	2019 Total £
Incoming and endowments from:				
Voluntary Income				
Giving through Gift Aid	40,395	-	40,395	39,384
Tax Refunds	10,971	-	10,971	12,858
Other planned Giving	4,399	-	4,399	5,307
Collection Plate	1,953	-	1,953	4,615
Occasional & Other Services	3,203	3,451	6,654	12,734
Donations				
General	15,112	1,554	16,666	783
Income from CandY account & Gift Aid	9,563	-	9,563	12,933
Wall box & Bookstall	13	-	13	99
Photocopying	353	-	353	832
	85,963	**5,005**	**90,968**	**89,545**
Other				
Fees Received				
PCC	9,574	-	9,574	10,378
Organist & Choir	840	-	840	1,570
Bell Ringers	110	-	110	682
YDBF	4,533	-	4,533	5,184
Income from Events				
Sunday Coffee	95	-	95	370
Fund Raising & Sale of Furniture	1,860	-	1,860	4,127
Sowerby Music	88	-	88	516
Other Concerts	640	-	640	680
CandY Activity Income	270	-	270	653
Recurring Grants				
Wayleave & Rent	121	-	121	120
Sowerby Parish Council	1,000	-	1,000	1,000
	19,131	**0**	**19,131**	**25,280**
Other trading activities				
Parochial Hall Income (note 12)	5,517	-	5,517	12,453
Parochial Hall Earnings from 100 Club	1,071	-	1,071	843
Parochial Hall Donations Received	480	-	480	0
Donations into CandY account	2,708	-	2,708	13,444
Saints Alive income	-	1,201	1,201	0
Luncheon Club earnings	-	268	268	1,604
	9,777	**1,469**	**11,246**	**28,344**
Investments				
Dividends (Gross) & Bank Interest	1,286	-	1,286	1,648
	1,286	**0**	**1,286**	**1,648**
Total Incoming Resources	**116,158**	**6,474**	**122,632**	**144,817**
Expenditure on				
Charitable activities (see note 3)	**115,219**	**7,092**	**122,311**	**154,520**
Net income/(expenditure) before gains/(losses) on investments	**939**	**-618**	**321**	**-9,703**
Net gains/(losses) on investments	**-3,250**	**0**	**-3,250**	**5,809**
Net movement of Funds	**-2,311**	**-618**	**-2,929**	**-3,894**
Balances b/fwd 1 January 2020	**35,807**	**6,171**	**41,978**	**45,872**
Balances c/fwd 31 December 2020	**33,496**	**5,553**	**39,049**	**41,978**

Parochial Church Council of St Oswald's Sowerby
Balance Sheet
as at 31 December 2020

	Note	2020	2019
		£	£
Fixed Assets	1	**3,248**	**3,653**
Current Assets			
Investments	4	28,329	31,695
Debtors	5	3,292	4,453
Bank Accounts	6	12,416	5,466
Prepayments		86	916
Cash Balances		450	673
		44,573	**43,204**
Creditors			
Sundry Creditors - YDBF		0	119
100 Club Deposits for following year		2,772	1,620
CandY donations received in advance	11	6,000	3,140
	7	**8,772**	**4,879**
Net Current Assets		**39,049**	**41,978**
Represented by:			
Unrestricted Funds	9	33,496	35,807
Restricted Funds	10	5,553	6,171
Net Funds		**39,049**	**41,978**

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 16 March 2021 and signed by:



Simon Birkbeck - Churchwarden

Parochial Church Council of St Oswald's Sowerby
Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 December 2020

1 Accounting Policies

1.1 Accounting Convention

The accounts are prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102 – (Charities SORP (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.
The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets which are shown at market value.

1.2 Funds

General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted.
The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body or those that are informal gatherings of church members.

1.3 Incoming Resources

Voluntary income and capital sources
Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC. Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid is recognised only when received. Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when received. Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for when received. Funds raised by events are accounted for gross. Sales of books and magazines are accounted for gross.
Other income
Income from the Parochial Hall is recognised when due.
Income from bank investments
Bank interest entitlements are accounted for as they accrue and appear gross.

1.4 Resources expended

The diocesan parish share is accounted for when it is paid. The PCC has paid its full share within the year.

1.5 Balance Sheet – Fixed Assets

Consecrated property and moveable church furnishings
Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind is excluded from the accounts by S10(2a) of the Charities Act 2011.
Moveable church furnishings held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC, and which require a faculty for disposal, are accounted as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the church's inventory which can be inspected at any reasonable time. For inalienable property acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the accounts.
Expenditure incurred in the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings, individual items under £1000 or on the repair of movable church items acquired before 1 January 2000 is written off.

Other Fixtures and Fittings
Depreciation is provided at 10% of cost on Hall Furniture and Equipment which is calculated to write off the cost less residual value of each asset over its useful life. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £1000 or less will be written off as the asset is acquired.

2 Net Incoming/Outgoing Resources

	2020	2019
	£	£
This is stated after charging:		
Depreciation and other amounts written off tangible fixed assets	**405**	**405**
Reporting accountant's fees	**250**	**250**

3 **Charitable activities**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2020 Total £	2019 Total £
Freewill Offering	**61,200**	**0**	**61,200**	**60,000**
Salaries, Honoraria and YDBF				
YDBF	4,533	-	4,533	5,184
CandY Salaries and on-costs	11,332	-	11,332	11,095
Administrator and on-costs	965	-	965	905
Organist and Choir - inc Occ. Services	1,165	-	1,165	3,325
Bellringers - Occ. Services	90	-	90	705
	18,085	**0**	**18,085**	**21,214**
Expenses of Clergy and CandY Staff				
Vicarage Costs	1,127	-	1,127	913
Mileage Allowance	243	-	243	815
Expense for CandY work	381	-	381	784
Gifts	20	-	20	68
Visiting Vicars	36	-	36	98
Mission Outreach	264	-	264	282
Training & Resources	77	-	77	440
	2,149	**0**	**2,149**	**3,400**
Church Running Costs				
Cleaning	1,357	-	1,357	1,150
Insurance	1,808	-	1,808	3,762
Candles and Service Costs	272	-	272	260
Repairs	1,016	-	1,016	1,978
Organ	100	-	100	100
Churchyard	1,498	-	1,498	4,498
	6,050	**0**	**6,050**	**11,748**
Church Utilities				
Gas	3,702	-	3,702	2,731
Water Rates	366	-	366	201
Electricity	494	-	494	1,470
	4,562	**0**	**4,562**	**4,402**
Church Administration				
Computer, Phone & Broadband	1,154	-	1,154	454
Professional Fees	738	-	738	734
Brokerage and Commission Fees	276	-	276	452
Licences and Subscriptions	900	-	900	870
Postage and Stationery	218	-	218	659
Copier Costs	3,347	-	3,347	4,105
	6,633	**0**	**6,633**	**7,274**
Donations to Charities				
Overseas Mission - from own Funds	3,800	-	3,800	3,850
Other - special and funeral collections	-	3,451	3,451	5,756
	3,800	**3,451**	**7,251**	**9,606**
Costs of generating funds				
Parochial Hall (note 12)				
Operating costs	10,814	-	10,814	11,650
Exceptional expenditure	862	-	862	5,536
CandY money paid to Church	-	2,708	2,708	8,196
Cost of Copying Saints Alive	-	301	301	0
Luncheon Club Costs	-	232	232	1,264
Lunch Club paid over to Hall	-	400	400	0
	11,676	**3,641**	**15,317**	**26,646**
Fabric Costs				
Architect's Fees	1,064	-	1,064	0
Fabric Costs	0	-	0	10,230
	1,064	**0**	**1,064**	**10,230**
Total charitable activities	**115,219**	**7,092**	**122,311**	**154,520**

4 Investments

During 2009 the Church became entitled to the Arthur Dreyheller Thompson Trust Fund following the death of the residuary life tenant. The investments are quoted in the accounts at market value as at 31st December 2020. The use of this fund is unrestricted.

5 Debtors

	2020	2019
	£	£
Hall Hire	785	2,623
Gift Aid and Tax Credits from HMRC	780	652
Due from Benefice parishes & others for administrative costs & copying	809	1,178
Due from electricity as a result of excess direct debit payments	918	0
	3,292	**4,453**

6 Bank Accounts

	£	£
Church	1,578	2,179
Parochial Hall	1,834	147
Deposit	3,004	0
"Sowerby CandY" (Note 10)	6,000	3,140
	12,416	**5,466**

7 Creditors: Falling due within one year and more

	£	£
Sundry Creditors – YDBF	0	119
Hall 100Club – 2021 Subscriptions	2,772	1,620
Donations from Thirsk Methodist Circuit to be spread over 5 years commencing 2017 (see note 10)	6,000	3,140
	8,772	**4,879**

8 Analysis of Net Assets by Funds

	Unrestricted	*Restricted*	*Total*
	£	£	£
Fixed Assets	3,248	0	3,248
Current Assets	33,020	11,553	44,573
Current Liabilities	2,772	6,000	8,772
Fund Balance	**33,496**	**5,553**	**39,049**

9 Unrestricted Funds

Designated funds are included in unrestricted funds and are for the maintenance and improvement of the Parochial Church Hall. See note 11

10 Analysis of Restricted Funds

	1/1/2020	Movement In	Movement Out	31/12/2020
	£	£	£	£
Bells	898	0	0	898
Charity	0	3,451	3,451	0
Saints Alive	0	1,201	301	900
Mexico 2021 Trip	0	1,168	0	1,168
Oakes Weekend	0	386	0	386
Martin Ridsdale Lighting Fund	1,951	0	0	1,951
Lunch Club	614	268	632	250
Sowerby "CandY"	2,708	0	2,708	0
	6,171	**6,474**	**7,092**	**5,553**

Saints Alive is the residue of money handed over from the Saints Alive account that has not been used for production costs in 2020. The Bells account is a long-standing fund from which repairs are taken over time. Mexico 2021, The Oakes weekend, Lunch Club and the Lighting Fund are all held as fund-raising income or deposits against projects suspended by Covid-19 which will be spent in due course.

11 Sowerby CandY

This account is a joint venture between St Oswald's Church and Sowerby Methodist Church. It is a vehicle for raising money to support children's and youth work. The activity is reflected in St Oswald's accounts as a restricted fund for convenience and transparency.
Gifts have been received from the Thirsk Methodist Circuit which, for prudence, have been spread over current and future years. A gift of £5353.75 received in 2018 was used in full for the development of the Annexe. As at 31/12/2020 the status of these gifts is as follows:

Year in which Gift Received	**2017**	**2020**	**Total**
Gift Received	5,197	5,177	10,374
Paid over to St Oswald's by 31/12/20	4,197	177	4,374
To pay over in 2021 and beyond	1,000	5,000	6,000

12 Parochial Hall

		2020	**2019**
		£	£
Income			
Lettings		5,518	12,453
Earnings from 100 Club	1,071	843	
Donations received		480	0
Total Income		**7,069**	**13,706**
Operating Costs for the year			
Caretaker		5,026	4,965
Cleaning Materials		147	357
Gas		1,788	2,243
Electricity		583	763
Water		310	278
Insurance		672	408
Miscellaneous repairs		935	1,077
Gas certificate and boiler repairs		324	432
Fire Protection & PAT Testing		36	109
Grass Cutting		588	613
Depreciation of Equipment		405	405
Total Operating Costs	**10,814**	**11,650**	
Exceptional Expenditure for the year			
New Kitchen – not transferred to Fixtures and Fittings		748	5,296
Remainder of expenditure in Annexe		114	240
Total Exceptional Costs		**862**	**5,536**
Deficit for the year	**-4,607**	**-3,480**	
Fund Balance at 1 January 2020		**7,599**	**14,732**
Sub-total		**2,992**	**11,252**
Kitchen equipment transferred to Fixtures and Fittings at Net Book Value		0	3,653
Residual Fund Balance at 31 December 2020		**2,992**	**7,599**

This fund is designated but not restricted.

Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of The Parochial Church Council of The Ecclesiastical Parish of St Oswald Sowerby

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020 which are set out on pages 7 to 12.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

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

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

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

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 the management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with s.130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records; or
- statutory fees were not accounted for correctly

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

W.G Pearson

William Pearson FCA FCCA
The Barker Partnership
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors
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Market Place
Thirsk
North Yorkshire
YO7 1HD

Date: 23/03/2021