

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



Registered charity number 1135485

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 sought 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.

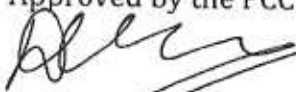
The buildings team continued to organise the management of the buildings. A number of working parties undertook maintenance tasks throughout the year. A separate report on the building fabric, ornaments and furnishings is available.

Thanks

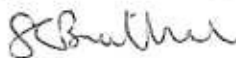
Grateful thanks are expressed to all at St Oswald's who have worked so hard, sometimes in different ways from normal, and with so much dedication for the benefit of the church and wider community.

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	4,511	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

Parochial Church Council of St Oswald's Sowerby
Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 December 2023

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

This is stated after charging:

Depreciation and other amounts written off tangible fixed assets

Reporting accountant's fees

2023	2022
£	£
405	405
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**
- | | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| | <i>Unrestricted</i> | <i>Restricted</i> | <i>Total</i> |
| | £ | £ | £ |
| 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 | Movement | 31/12/2023 |
| | | In | Out | |
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| 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 (<i>ex officio</i>):	David Tucker (joint Vice Chair) Simon Birkbeck (joint Vice Chair)
Priest-in-Charge (<i>ex officio</i>):	Revd David Biggs
Assistant Priest (<i>ex officio</i>):	Revd Pauline Percy
Reader:	David Brooke
Recognised Parish Assistants: (now known as Authorised Lay Ministers)	Cecily Rands (retired September 2023) Helen Irving Yvonne Bowling
Deanery Synod (<i>ex officio</i>):	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.



Registered charity number 1135485

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 sought 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.

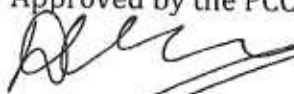
The buildings team continued to organise the management of the buildings. A number of working parties undertook maintenance tasks throughout the year. A separate report on the building fabric, ornaments and furnishings is available.

Thanks

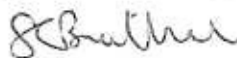
Grateful thanks are expressed to all at St Oswald's who have worked so hard, sometimes in different ways from normal, and with so much dedication for the benefit of the church and wider community.

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.

