

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 (<i>ex officio</i>):	David Tucker (joint Vice Chair) (retired May 2024) 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
Children and Youth Minister:	Rachel Halkyard
Authorised Lay Ministers:	Helen Irving Yvonne Bowling
Deanery Synod (<i>ex officio</i>):	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 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 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
Churchwarden

Rev David Biggs
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

Parochial Church Council of St Oswald's Sowerby
Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 December 2024

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 than £60,000. (2022: None)

	2024	2023
6 Debtors		
	£	£
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: