

St. Mark's Church, Barrow in Furness

Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council

For the year ended 31st December 2023

Priest in Charge:

The Reverend Tony Ford
St. Mark's Vicarage
Rawlinson Street
Barrow in Furness

Banks:

Barclays Bank plc
Dalton Road
Barrow in Furness

CAF Bank Limited
Kings Hill Avenue
West Malling
Kent

National Savings & Investments
Glasgow

Registered Charity No: 1139932

St. Mark's Church, Barrow in Furness
Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council
For the year ended 31st December 2023

Administrative Information:

St. Mark's Church is situated on the corner of Rawlinson Street and Buccleuch Street, Barrow in Furness. It is part of the Diocese of Carlisle within the Church of England.

The correspondence address is St. Mark's Vicarage, Rawlinson Street, Barrow in Furness, Cumbria LA14 1BX.

The Parochial Church Council became a registered charity on 19th January 2011.

PCC members who have served from 1st January 2023 until 31st December 2023 are:

Priest in Charge	Rev. Tony Ford	Chair
LLM (Reader)	Mr. David Nelson	
Wardens	Miss Lisa Miller Mr. John Sherrat	Elected 2022 APCM Elected 2023 APCM
Deanery Synod Reps	Mrs. Susan Benson Mrs. Liz Currie Mr. Jason Dobb Mr. Graham Hodgson Mrs. Kath Raven	Appointed June 2021, until 2023 APCM Appointed Sept. 2021, until 2023 APCM Elected 2023 APCM Appointed April 2023 - Joint PCC Lay Chair from July 2021 Re-elected 2020 APCM, until 2023 APCM
Community Pastor	Mrs. Gillian Grisedale	
Elected Members	Mrs. Susan Benson Mr. Richard N. Carrick Mrs. Christine Carruthers Mrs. Liz Currie Mrs. Brenda Harrison Mrs. Rose Hazlehurst Mrs. Linda Lawrence Mr. Alan McCracken Mr. Graham McTavish Mrs. Heather Sherratt Mr. John Sherratt	Elected 2023 APCM, Secretary Re-elected 2021 APCM Elected 2022 APCM Elected 2023 APCM, - Joint Lay Chair from July 2021 - LLM from 2016 Elected 2020 APCM, until 2023 APCM Elected 2022 APCM Elected 2023 APCM - Treasurer - LLM from 2013 Elected 2023 APCM Elected 2023 APCM, resigned May 2023 Elected 2023 APCM Co-opted Jan. 2023, until 2023 APCM

Committees:

Standing Committee:

This is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council.

Committee Members:

Priest in Charge	Revd. Tony Ford	Chair
Wardens	Miss Lisa Miller	From 2022 APCM
	Mr. John Sherratt	From 2023 APCM
PCC Members	Mrs Christine Carruthers	
	Mrs. Liz Currie	From April 2023
	Mr. Alan McCracken	
Community Pastor	Mrs. Gillian Grisedale	
Treasurer	Mrs. Linda Lawrence	
Secretary	Mrs Susan Benson	

Support Groups:

These convene at need to discharge duties regarded by the PCC to be within their remit.

Fabric Committee:

The wardens gather skilled church members as and when necessary.

Structure, governance and management:

Members of the PCC are either (1) *ex-officio*, (2) elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules, or (3) co-opted onto the PCC at its members' discretion. All church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

Objectives and activities:

St. Mark's PCC has the responsibilities of co-operating, with the Priest in Charge, the Revd. Tony Ford, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church: pastoral; evangelistic; social; and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the church buildings of St. Mark's Church, Barrow in Furness.

Achievements and performance:

Church Attendance: The average weekly attendance on a Sunday, counted during October 2023, was 86, including 6 under the age of 16, for the mid-week Communion Service the average was 29. We have continued to Live Stream the Sunday morning Services making them available via YouTube, Facebook and the Church web site.

Electoral Roll: The year began in January 2023 with 111 names on the Roll and ended in December 2023 with 115 names on the Roll.

PCC Attendance: The PCC met nine times during 2023 (January-December) for ordinary meetings and one additional special meeting. The average attendance was 12.

2023 - Vicar's Review of the Year:

Personally, I think 2023 has been very a positive year. There has been some stability after the uncertainty of Lockdown/Covid and numbers at both our Sunday Morning and Wednesday Morning Services have continued to hold strong when other churches are sadly experiencing decline.

We have had the highs and lows of occasional offices, with the sad loss of loved ones, who thankfully knew and trusted the Lord and yet the highs of some amazing weddings and a large number of baptisms both children and adults.

It has been good to have two Wardens again and a huge thanks to Lisa and John for all their hard work.

Gill and the volunteers in the Clothes Bank and Café have gone the extra mile to support and love so many people and we are also so thankful of the support of the general public in donating clothes and several businesses supporting this amazing ministry.

Ark Club has been a continued blessing and a huge thank you to Carole and her team for all you do. It is so important that we have something for Children on Sunday's.

On a personal front it has been a mixed year, I personally don't feel I have ever felt so low after the way the so called 'progressive' Bishops have tried to change the doctrine of marriage by the back door and not using the usual course of voting in General Synod, how these Bishops can ask us to bless what God's word says is wrong, angers and frustrates me and if it wasn't for my love of the St. Mark's Church family, I would have left the Church of England. A huge thank you to the PCC and many members of the congregation for their support and to our retiring Bishop, James and Bishop Rob for their orthodox stand on this issue. Please continue to pray for Bishop Rob and both our Archdeacon's Vernon and Stewart who continue to be godly men in their ministry to us.

The positive of the year personally was the sabbatical and being able to share the good news of Jesus all around the country whilst catching up with friends, spending a little more time with family and getting some much-needed rest. I am so thankful to those who covered all the Services during that time. Not many churches could have covered everything in house.

Other things to celebrate, the Lent Course, Christianity Explored one to one's and group course planned, The Anniversary weekend with the wonderful 'Out of the Ashes team', Schools work in Ramsden school continues to grow and we are hoping to start some Children's/family ministry again in 2024, BAE still hasn't happened but there are a few signs that things are moving.

The Rugby Chaplaincy is still going well, although I have not been down as often as needed this last year through lack of time and the sabbatical but relationships especially with the

men's team are strong. Thank you for your prayer support for this ministry, God continues to bless it.

Our church family has become even more diverse culturally and that is so exciting to have so many nationalities, I suppose I get the best view of our diversity when leading and preaching from the front and it is so encouraging.

I also just want to thank again all those who serve us in various ways, many unseen. We would not continue to flourish if it wasn't for your hard work and commitment.

And finally, thank you so much for your financial giving in these hard times. As you will have experienced at home, bills are rising and this is the same for the church. We are ok as you'll see in Linda's financial statement but the costs are great, please do look at what you can give and even if it is a small additional amount, it will make a difference when all our small amounts are added together.

***Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine,
according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church
and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations for ever and ever! Amen***

Ephesians 3 v20-21.

Safeguarding Annual Report to the PCC



1. Our Parish Safeguarding Officer

Our Parish Safeguarding Officer is Jason Dobb

2. Safer Recruitment, and Training

Our parish supports the following groups working with children and young people, and with adults who are vulnerable:

Ark
Music Group
Clothes Bank
Sunday Prayer Team
Pastoral Care Team

Church members who partake in wider church initiatives (eg. Network Youth Church and Open the Book) are also covered by the parish's Safeguarding arrangements.

The leaders and volunteers working with our groups are in the process of being safely recruited according to the Church's national guidance, including the agreement of role profiles. We are about to start using the Parish Safeguarding Dashboard, which should make simpler the task of ensuring that all records are up to date and all procedures completed. The training of all leaders and volunteers will be checked and updated as part of the introduction of the Dashboard. DBS checks are complete for all but one of the personnel who need them.

3. Church Policy and Guidance

All parishes are required to have agreed a formal statement of adoption of the House of Bishops 'Promoting a Safer Church; safeguarding policy statement', and of Church of England safeguarding policy and guidance. This statement has been signed on behalf of the PCC and displayed in our church.

Approved by the PCC on ##th April 2024 & signed on their behalf by Revd. Tony Ford (PCC Chairman)

Signed

Date

St. Mark's Church, Barrow-in-Furness

Financial Statement for the Year Ended 31st December 2023

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31st December 2023

	General Fund £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Reserves £	Totals 2023 £
Monetary Assets					
Barclays Community - Current	10,543.62				10,543.62
CAF Cash - Current		-	17,140.81		17,140.81
Total Monetary Assets	10,543.62	-	17,140.81		27,684.43
Investment Assets					
CAF Gold				83,489.57	83,489.57
Barclays High Interest Business		12,202.13			12,202.13
National Savings & Investments		1,036.55			1,036.55
Total Investment Assets		13,238.68	-	83,489.57	96,728.25

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31st December 2022

	General Fund £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Reserves £	Totals 2022 £
Monetary Assets					
Barclays Community - Current	15,744.32				15,744.32
CAF Cash - Current		-	8,544.52		8,544.52
Total Monetary Assets	15,744.32	-	8,544.52		24,288.84
Investment Assets					
CAF Gold				102,736.29	102,736.29
Barclays Premium		12,973.71			12,973.71
National Savings & Investments		1,036.55			1,036.55
Total Investment Assets		14,010.26	-	102,736.29	116,746.55

***Approved by the PCC on
behalf by Rev Tony Ford (PCC Chairman)***

and signed on their

Signed

Date

General Fund Receipts and Payments Account

Receipts	2023 £	2022 £
Incoming resources from donors		
Pledged Giving	46,451.91	45,069.90
Cash Collections	1,945.18	2,516.83
Sundry Donations	6,425.44	4,869.35
Git Aid Reclaimed	9,294.11	19,424.24
Sub Totals	64,116.64	71,880.32
Other voluntary incoming resources		
Legacies	-	-
Special events income	656.27	153.00
Sunday Night Live	-	-
Sub Totals	656.27	153.00
Income from charitable and ancillary trading		
Contributions for use of Church building	1,767.00	1,486.00
Fees	1,310.00	1,402.00
Sale of Bible notes & Homegroup books	-	-
Sub Totals	3,077.00	2,888.00
Other ordinary incoming resources		
Insurance claims	-	-
Photocopying	84.38	-
Repayments	-	-
Misc	10,646.05	3.34
Sub Totals	10,730.43	3.34
Messy Marks	-	-
Total Receipts - Unrestricted Funds	78,580.34	74,924.66
Restricted Income		
Mission Giving to Societies	8,671.53	9,797.17
Collections for charities	1,877.15	1,079.55
Gift Day - 2023	825.00	-
Gift Day - 2022	347.50	2,131.00
Gift Day - 2021	-	441.25
Gift Day - 2020	-	440.00
Restricted Donations	25,114.84	19,369.41
Sub Totals	36,836.02	33,258.38
Total Receipts	115,416.36	108,183.04
Excess of Receipts over Payments (Unrestricted Funds)	(12,914.40)	432.37
Transfer of Deficit Allocation from Legacy	0.00	0.00

General Fund Receipts and Payments Account

Payments	2023	2022
	£	£
Activities directly relating to the work of the Church		
Ministry		
Parish Share	51,000.00	48,330.00
Working Expenses of Clergy		
Vicar Expenses	1,571.70	1,440.00
Telephone	618.73	736.76
Curate Expenses	-	-
Telephone	-	-
Visiting Speakers	-	-
Sub Totals	2,190.43	2,176.76
Church Running Expenses		
Electricity, Gas, Water	21,619.45	7,864.51
Insurance	2,999.65	2,796.13
Cleaning	6,496.55	5,628.46
Sub Totals	31,115.65	16,289.10
Church maintenance		
General	1,625.78	1,237.44
Organ	513.28	338.28
Sub Totals	2,139.06	1,575.72
Upkeep of services		
Misc	520.88	415.18
Catering	200.39	178.98
Lay reader expenses	-	-
Leaflets & Literature	523.86	425.61
Copyright Licence	1,180.10	1,095.28
Sub Totals	2,425.23	2,115.05
Support costs		
Training	218.97	459.21
Sunday School	75.73	35.28
Brownies	-	-
Sub Totals	294.70	494.49
Building Work		
Major repairs (structure)	-	-
Major repairs/replacement (installations)	-	-
Interior and exterior re-decoration	-	-
Sub Totals	-	-
Honoraria Organist	-	-
Special events expenses	931.73	108.84
Sunday Night Live	-	-
Ancillary Trading	-	-

Payments (cont)	2023	2022
	£	£
Church management and administration		
Stationery & Postage	-	134.21
Photocopying	437.83	216.71
Church Telephone/Broadband	402.48	409.80
Computer/Website Expenses	-	-
Architect Fees	-	-
Misc	557.63	141.61
Sub Totals	1,397.94	902.33
Messy Marks	-	-
Internal Transfers		
Designated Funds	-	2,500.00
General Reserves	-	-
Fabric Reserves	-	-
Legacy Reserves	-	-
Sub Totals	0.00	2,500.00
Total Payments - Unrestricted	91,494.74	74,492.29
Payment of Restricted Funds		
Mission Giving to Societies	8,671.53	9,797.17
Charity Collections/Donation	1,877.15	1,079.55
Gift Day - 2023	825.00	
Gift Day - 2022	347.50	2,131.00
Gift Day - 2021	825.00	441.25
Gift Day - 2020	347.50	440.00
Donations	16,518.55	23,003.72
Sub Totals	29,412.23	36,892.69
Total Payments	120,906.97	111,384.98
Notes re General Fund		
Miscellaneous Receipts		
Stewardship - Warm Space Donation	1,000.00	
Barrow Borough Council - Warm Space Donation	5,000.00	
Carlisle Diocese - Energy Grant	4,500.00	
CAF Cash - Interest	3.56	
Brown & Murray re Richard Walsh legacy	142.49	
Church Running Expenses		
Electricity	9,290.17	2,068.19
Gas	11,550.25	3,797.06
Water	779.03	269.71
Miscellaneous Payments		
Church Flowers	400.00	
Bishop of Carlisle Retirement Contribution	50.00	
Bank Charges	107.63	

Mission and Charitable Giving - Restricted

Receipts	2023	2022
Pledged Giving	6,642.25	6,145.50
Cash	-	-
Gift Aid Reclaimed	1,465.13	3,013.88
Home Communions	-	-
	8,107.38	9,159.38
Harvest Collections - Tearfund	508.05	503.00
Gift Aid Reclaimed - Tearfund	21.25	106.25
Toilet Twinning (Includes Gift Aid reclaimed)	15.00	18.00
Leprosy Boxes	19.85	10.54
Total Receipts	8,671.53	9,797.17

Payments	2023	2022
Overseas Mission Fellowship (OMF)	1,891.72	2,137.19
Wycliffe Bible Translators	1,891.72	2,137.19
Church Mission Society (CMS)	1,891.72	2,137.19
Church Pastoral Aid Society (CPAS)	810.74	915.93
Church Army	810.74	915.94
Bible Society	810.74	915.94
	8,107.38	9,159.38
Harvest Collections - Tearfund	508.05	503.00
Gift Aid Reclaimed - Tearfund	21.25	106.25
Toilet Twinning (Includes Gift Aid reclaimed)	15.00	18.00
Leprosy Boxes	19.85	10.54
Total Payments	8,671.53	9,797.17

Restricted Funds

	Balances 31.12.2022	Receipts	Payments	Balances 31.12.2023
Funeral Collections/Donations for St Mark's:				
In memory of Mrs D Jackson	56.41	-	-	56.41
In memory of Mrs J Twyford	174.50	-	-	174.50
In memory of Mrs B Harrison (St Mark's Work in the community)	-	517.33	-	517.33
In memory of Mr W Goslin (Part)	-	167.50		167.50
Gift Day 2023 - Building Work	-	825.00		825.00
Community Fund	969.01	2,710.32	1,859.99	1,819.34
Children in Poverty	322.12		-	322.12
Fabric Fund	561.08	-	-	561.08
Organ Donation	200.00			200.00
Audio Visual Fund				
Donations	-	350.00	-	350.00
Technicians - Funeral services	1,211.34	60.00	-	1,271.34
Messy Marks	429.27			429.27
Homeless Fund (Buried in Barrow)	3405.72	-	-	3,405.72
Music Group	70.00	-	-	70.00
Community Pastor Role Fund	1145.07	20,480.00	14,658.56	6,966.51
Interest	-	4.69		4.69
Totals at 31st December	8,544.52	25,114.84	16,518.55	17,140.81
Community Fund				
Donations includes Gift Aid reclaimed		600.00		
Cumbria County Council		1,608.00		
Nathan Clothes Savers (Clothes Bank)		302.32		
Food cupboard donations		200.00		
Clothes Bank Petty cash			600.00	
Clothes Bank Christmas Party			78.56	
Benches			239.90	
Pantomime Tickets (Ramsden Infants)			341.53	
Discretionary Fund				
Discretionary Fund			600.00	
Community Pastor Role Fund				
Donations		480.00		
Transfer from Legacy (R Walsh)		20,000.00		
Salary			14,658.56	

Designated Funds

	Balances 31.12.2022	Receipts	Payments	Balances 31.12.2023
Childrens Work	1,019.93	-	-	1,019.93
Messy Marks (Families)	9,000.00	-	-	9,000.00
Training	2,150.00	-	-	2,150.00
Future Evangelism	1,812.80	511.47	1,394.06	930.21
Interest	27.53	111.01	-	138.54
Totals at 31st December	14,010.26	622.48	1,394.06	13,238.68
Future Evangelism				
Out of the Ashes		511.47	1,394.06	(882.59)

Reserves

	Balances 31.12.2022	Receipts	Payments	Balances 31.12.2023
Interest	972.35	1,753.28	-	2,725.63
General	-	-	-	-
Fabric	-	-	-	-
Legacy - John Hannah				
Building Work/Refurbishment	- 0.00	-	- -	0.00
Community Pastor	-	-	-	-
Deficit	3,474.69	-	-	3,474.69
Reserves/Fabric	4,190.77	-	-	4,190.77
Special Projects	6,511.00	-	-	6,511.00
Technical Upgrade	480.78	-	-	480.78
Other	-	-	-	-
Sub Totals	14,657.24	-	-	14,657.24
Legacy - J Smart	500.00	-	-	500.00
Legacy - J K Harper	-	-	-	-
Audio Visual Streaming Equipment				
Legacy - E Roberts (Piano)	437.64	-	-	437.64
Legacy - A Kaye	3,971.46	-	-	3,971.46
Audio Visual Streaming Equipment				
Legacy - R Walsh				
Building Work/Refurbishment	4,597.42	-	-	4,597.42
Community Pastor	-	20,000.00	20,000.00	-
Other (Unallocated)	77,600.18	(20,000.00)	1,000.00	56,600.18
Sub Totals	82,197.60	-	21,000.00	61,197.60
Totals at 31st December	102,736.29	1,753.28	21,000.00	83,489.57

Allocation of Restricted Collections/Donations for Charities

	2023
Funeral Collections	
Age UK (Carr)	78.53
British Heart Foundation (Moore 50%)	195.33
Epilepsy (Moore 50%)	205.33
Furness General Hospital - Ward 9 (Goslin 50%)	167.50
Christian Aid (Judd)	147.00
Alzheimer Society (Wilson)	92.00
Retiring Collections	
Christian Aid	108.46
Children Society - Christingle	137.83
Children Society - Carols by Candlelight	62.50
Bishop of Carlisle Retirement	16.00
Furness Churches United Choirs Performances	
St Mary's Hospice	
The Inn Crowd	180.85
Pirates of Penzance & Even More	407.82
Children Society - Christmas cards donations	78.00

Totals **1,877.15**

Fees Account

Receipts	2023	2022
Church Funeral Fees	1,603.00	2,390.00
Crematorium Funeral Fees	228.00	206.00
Interment	0.00	30.00
Banns	-	50.00
Wedding	1,050.00	480.00
Baptism Certificate	-	-
Total Receipts	2,881.00	3,156.00
Payments		
Organist	-	-
Verger	60.00	180.00
Technicians - Audio Visual Fund	60.00	180.00
Retired Clergy	-	-
Carlisle Diocesan Board of Finance	1,451.00	1,394.00
St Mark's PCC	1,310.00	1,402.00
Total Payments	2,881.00	3,156.00

