



St. Mark's Church, Barrow in Furness

**Annual Report
and
Financial Statements
of the
Parochial Church Council**

For the year ended 31st December 2024

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

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St. Mark's Church, Barrow in Furness
Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council
For the year ended 31st December 2024

Administrative Information:

St. Mark's Church is situated on the corner of Rawlinson Street and Buccleuch Street, Barrow in Furness and 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.

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. The co-option is until the conclusion of the next APCM but without prejudice to them being co-opted on subsequent occasions for a similar term. All church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

PCC members who have served from 1st January 2024 until 31st December 2024 are:

Priest in Charge	Revd Tony Ford	Chair
LLM (Reader)	Mr David Nelson	
Wardens	Ms Lisa Miller	First elected as Warden 2022 APCM
	Mr John Sherratt	First elected as Warden 2023 APCM
Deanery Synod Reps	Mr Jason Dobb	Elected 2023 APCM
	Mr Graham Hodgson	Appointed by PCC April 2023 - Joint PCC Lay Chair from July 2021
Community Pastor	Mrs Gillian Grisedale	<i>ex-officio</i>
Elected Members	Mrs Susan Benson	Elected 2023 APCM, Secretary
	Mr Richard N. Carrick	Re-elected 2024 APCM
	Mrs Christine Carruthers	Elected 2022 APCM
	Mrs Liz Currie	- Joint Lay Chair from July 2021 - LLM from 2016
	Mrs Rose Hazlehurst	Elected 2022 APCM
	Mrs Linda Lawrence	Elected 2023 APCM - Treasurer - LLM from 2013
	Mr Alan McCracken	Elected 2023 APCM
	Mrs Heather Sherratt	Elected 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	Ms Lisa Miller Mr John Sherratt	
PCC Members	Mrs Christine Carruthers Mrs Liz Currie Mr Alan McCracken	April 2023 until March 2024
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.

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 2024, was 71, including 7 under the age of 16, For the mid-week Communion Service the average was 34. 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 2024 with 115 names on the Roll and ended in December 2024 with 116 names on the Roll. During the year 1 member died and 2 people joined the Roll. In accordance with the Church Representation Rules a new Electoral Roll will be created for the 2025 APCM.

PCC Attendance: The PCC met 9 times during 2024 (January-December) for ordinary meetings and one additional special meeting. The average attendance was 13.

2024 - Vicar's Review of the Year:

2024 another year that has flown by and overall been very positive for St. Mark's. So many things to celebrate but the Clothes bank and Café serving their 50,000th client is in one way fantastic that as a church we have helped so, but then so sad that there is so much need that hasn't been addressed by successive governments. It was nice to celebrate the amazing work of Gill and all those who volunteer week in and week out – Thank you!

We also have so many other people who serve the church faithfully, I am deliberately not going to name them in case I miss someone out but thank you to you too. We just wouldn't function as a church without all you do. Also, a huge thank you for your financial support, we again increased our Parish offer and are able to keep the Community Pastor role going for another year. We have also been blessed by financial giving from external agencies for our community work.

Sadly, we have lost brothers and sisters over the last 12 months, as painful as that is, we have a sure and certain hope through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Lots of things to enjoy, Anniversary weekend with Songs of Praise and Dalton Brass Band, The Maundy meal was a special occasion, Lent course, Christianity explored and lots of events e.g. The Easter Walk, with games and picnic, Boogie night etc all well received.

We must not forget the Chaplaincy work done by St. Mark's, Barrow Raiders has continued to tick over but I have not been as often as previous years due to the new Chaplaincy at BAE which has been amazing blessed by the Lord. This needs to kick on the 2025 but will need support from the diocese and I have promised to continue working full out on the 3 fronts of Rugby, Church and BAE until March 2025 by which time if no support is forthcoming from the diocese I will have to cut back. Assurances have been made but then again, we were promised a curate in 2018 and still waiting! By December 2024 I had spoken to well over 5000 people at BAE about Faith and Chaplaincy and supported many individuals going through a huge variety of difficult times. This isn't Tony's ministry; this is St. Mark's ministry and please continue to pray for it.

The Church of England is still in turmoil and we have been seriously let down by the majority of Bishops and our archbishops, who are denying the plain teaching of the Bible that sex should be between one man and one woman in the confines of marriage, unfortunately they are in favour of being led by the world around them, we should not be surprised, Jesus did warn us. There also seems to be weekly revelations of abuse by

leaders in the CofE and as shocked as we are, our hearts and prayers must be for the victims who have suffered at the hands of their abusers.

We should give thanks to our two archdeacons and acting diocesan Bishop for standing for Biblical trust, please pray for God love and protection for them and their families.

As we come to the end of 2024 St. Mark's is in a good place with a lovely diverse mix of brothers and sisters in Christ, loving and serving one another, it is St. Mark's that is keeping me in the Church of England and I love being the pastor of this church. And thank you to all those who prayed for and supported Denise and myself when we suffered 3 bereavements within a week, one being my sister Sue. God is good!

Finally, I am sure I have missed lots out of this report but so much goes on at St. Mark's. A huge thank you to the PCC and Wardens for all they do, managing the church through these difficult times isn't easy but the unity around the gospel has been amazing and stands us in good stead for what God is going to do in and through us in 2025.

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 3:20-21

2024 - Wardens Church Fabric Report

At the time of writing this (and probably also when you read it) we are having extensive work undertaken to the front and rear elevation of the church at a cost of approximately £31k. This should preserve these areas for the foreseeable future. Similar work is however required on both side elevations and also the boundary wall adjoining Rawlinson Street which is not in good order and does not give a good first impression to visitors. How this further work can be funded may however be an issue.

During the year further work has again been undertaken to the central valley roof with the installation of 2 new sump drains and adjusting the rear down pipe hopper and therefore hopefully catching the majority of the rainwater.

Unfortunately, this has not solved the long standing problem of water penetration particularly into the clothes bank which still occurs after heavy rain and during periods of snow melt. Our builder thinks that the cause of this is due to the roof slates not being bonded on to the lead in the valley resulting in water rising up behind the slates but the cost of such remedial work will not be cheap and there is no guarantee that this will solve the issue.

All other standard servicing and checks have been undertaken in respect of the fire equipment, central heating and electrical PAT testing. The mandatory 5 year test of the electrical system has also been carried out and thankfully found to be in good order.

The Organ has been fully serviced and the full keyboard is again in place and it is ready to be played.

A new colourful Banner is in place in the prayer corner thanks to the hard work of various ladies in the church with hopefully some more contributions to follow.

The old florescent light tubes are gradually being replaced with LED tubes and the type of lighting is being considered in various areas which will hopefully making us more ecofriendly.

The self fill hot water boiler/urn has been replaced in the kitchen as have the old free standing ones. These should give us good service for not only the café and weekly services but also all other events which we host over the year.

In December we were visited by Archdeacon Vernon Ross for the 3 yearly visitation and not only did he go through all our documents and records which he found to be in order but he was extremely enthusiastic in respect of the “brilliant work” undertaken by the church making specific reference to BAE and that he “can’t help but be impressed by the great variety of the community who use the buildings and your ministry to some of the poorest people in the town”.

Having been built in 1878 with only a anticipated life span of approximately 50 years it is only to be expected that some 147 years on the fabric may be somewhat cracked and crazed in places with a few groans and plumbing issues but whilst the building is still standing by far the most important issue is that the number of people who make up the church continues to grow and is welcoming folks from all over the globe and the church continues to hold fast to the word of God and to proclaim the Gospel and the good news of God’s love to the needy and the lost. Long may that continue.

Safeguarding Annual Report to the PCC



1. 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 in the early stages of using the Parish Safeguarding Dashboard, which should make simpler the task of what needs doing. The training of all leaders and volunteers is being checked and updated in connection with the use the Dashboard. DBS checks are complete for all 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 20th April 2025 & signed on their behalf by Revd. Tony Ford (PCC Chairman)

Signed 

Date 20/4/25

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

Financial Statement for the Year Ended 31st December 2024

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31st December 2024

	General Fund £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Reserves £	Totals 2024 £
Monetary Assets					
Barclays Community - Current	(3,842.28)				(3,842.28)
CAF Cash - Current		-	15,931.67		15,931.67
Total Monetary Assets	(3,842.28)	-	15,931.67		12,089.39
Investment Assets					
CAF Gold				66,767.66	66,767.66
Barclays High Interest Business		12,383.74			12,383.74
National Savings & Investments		1,036.55			1,036.55
Total Investment Assets		13,420.29	-	66,767.66	80,187.95

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

Approved by the PCC on 20th April 2025 and signed on their behalf by Rev Tony Ford (PCC Chairman)

Signed 

Date 20/4/25

General Fund Receipts and Payments Account

Receipts	2024 £	2023 £
Incoming resources from donors		
Pledged Giving	50,236.18	46,451.91
Cash Collections	3,564.69	1,945.18
Sundry Donations	5,590.02	6,425.44
Git Aid Reclaimed	11,164.01	9,294.11
Sub Totals	70,554.90	64,116.64
Other voluntary incoming resources		
Legacies	-	-
Special events income	317.17	656.27
Sunday Night Live	-	-
Sub Totals	317.17	656.27
Income from charitable and ancillary trading		
Contributions for use of Church building	2,217.25	1,767.00
Fees	794.23	1,310.00
Sale of Bible notes & Homegroup books	50.00	-
Sub Totals	3,061.48	3,077.00
Other ordinary incoming resources		
Insurance claims	-	-
Photocopying	-	84.38
Repayments	-	-
Misc	-	10,646.05
Sub Totals	0.00	10,730.43
Messy Marks (Families)	-	-
Total Receipts - Unrestricted Funds	73,933.55	78,580.34
Restricted Income		
Mission Giving to Societies	14,528.23	8,671.53
Collections for charities	3,329.76	1,877.15
Gift Day - 2024	2,557.71	
Gift Day - 2023	195.00	825.00
Gift Day - 2022	-	347.50
Gift Day - 2021		
Restricted Donations	21,780.45	25,114.84
Sub Totals	42,391.15	36,836.02
Total Receipts	116,324.70	115,416.36
Excess of Receipts over Payments (Unrestricted Funds)	(12,590.80)	(12,914.40)
Transfer of Deficit Allocation from Legacy	0.00	0.00

General Fund Receipts and Payments Account

Payments	2024	2023
	£	£
Activities directly relating to the work of the Church		
Ministry		
Parish Share	53,040.00	51,000.00
Working Expenses of Clergy		
Vicar Expenses	1,666.00	1,571.70
Telephone	633.82	618.73
Curate Expenses	-	-
Telephone	-	-
Visiting Speakers	30.00	-
Sub Totals	2,329.82	2,190.43
Church Running Expenses		
Electricity, Gas, Water	13,255.17	21,619.45
Insurance	3,079.85	2,999.65
Cleaning	7,062.15	6,496.55
Sub Totals	23,397.17	31,115.65
Church maintenance		
General	1,408.45	1,625.78
Organ	1,283.76	513.28
Sub Totals	2,692.21	2,139.06
Upkeep of services		
Misc	423.16	520.88
Catering	299.57	200.39
Lay reader expenses	-	-
Leaflets & Literature	698.05	523.86
Copyright Licence	1,240.48	1,180.10
Sub Totals	2,661.26	2,425.23
Support costs		
Training	760.73	218.97
Sunday School	145.19	75.73
Brownies	-	-
Sub Totals	905.92	294.70
Building Work		
Major repairs (structure)	-	-
Major repairs/replacement (installations)	-	-
Interior and exterior re-decoration	-	-
Sub Totals	-	-
Honoraria Organist	-	-
Special events expenses	546.75	931.73
Sunday Night Live	-	-
Ancillary Trading	-	-

Payments (cont)	2024	2023
	£	£
Church management and administration		
Stationery & Postage	-	-
Photocopying	368.56	437.83
Church Telephone/Broadband	394.32	402.48
Computer/Website Expenses	-	-
Architect Fees	-	-
Misc	188.34	557.63
Sub Totals	951.22	1,397.94
Messy Marks (Families)	-	-
Internal Transfers		
Designated Funds	-	-
General Reserves	-	-
Fabric Reserves	-	-
Legacy Reserves	-	-
Sub Totals	0.00	0.00
Total Payments - Unrestricted	86,524.35	91,494.74
Payment of Restricted Funds		
Mission Giving to Societies	14,528.23	8,671.53
Charity Collections/Donation	3,329.76	1,877.15
Gift Day - 2024	2,557.71	
Gift Day - 2023	195.00	825.00
Gift Day - 2022	-	347.50
Gift Day - 2021	-	825.00
Gift Day - 2020	-	347.50
Donations	23,086.21	16,518.55
Sub Totals	43,696.91	29,412.23
Total Payments	130,221.26	120,906.97
Notes re General Fund		
Church Running Expenses		
Electricity	3,701.43	9,290.17
Gas	8,645.91	11,550.25
Water	907.83	779.03
Miscellaneous Payments		
Pole for Banner	19.50	
Bank Charges	98.04	
Sumup Card Reader	70.80	

Mission and Charitable Giving - Restricted

Receipts	2024	2023
Pledged Giving	12,216.10	6,642.25
Cash	-	-
Gift Aid Reclaimed	1,591.13	1,465.13
Home Communions	-	-
	13,807.23	8,107.38
Harvest Collections - Tearfund	646.00	508.05
Gift Aid Reclaimed - Tearfund	60.00	21.25
Toilet Twinning (Includes Gift Aid reclaimed)	15.00	15.00
Leprosy Boxes	-	19.85
Total Receipts	14,528.23	8,671.53

Payments	2024	2023
Overseas Mission Fellowship (OMF)	3,221.68	1,891.72
Wycliffe Bible Translators	3,221.69	1,891.72
Church Mission Society (CMS)	3,221.69	1,891.72
Church Pastoral Aid Society (CPAS)	1,380.72	810.74
Church Army	1,380.73	810.74
Bible Society	1,380.72	810.74
	13,807.23	8,107.38
Harvest Collections - Tearfund	646.00	508.05
Gift Aid Reclaimed - Tearfund	60.00	21.25
Toilet Twinning (Includes Gift Aid reclaimed)	15.00	15.00
Leprosy Boxes	-	19.85
Total Payments	14,528.23	8,671.53

Restricted Funds

	Balances 31.12.2023	Receipts	Payments	Balances 31.12.2024
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)	592.33	313.39	-	905.72
In memory of Mr W Goslin (Part)	167.50			167.50
Communion Cups		66.88	66.88	-
Gift Day 2023 - Building Work	825.00	195.00	-	1,020.00
Community Fund	1,819.37	3,885.02	1,302.28	4,402.11
Children in Poverty	322.12			322.12
Fabric Fund	561.08	1,500.00	1,667.99	393.09
Organ Donation	200.00			200.00
Audio Visual Fund				
Donations	350.00	-	-	350.00
Technicians - Funeral services	1,291.34	120.00	-	1,411.34
Messy Marks (Families)	429.27			429.27
Homeless Fund (Buried in Barrow)	3405.72	-	3,405.72	-
Music Group	70.00	-	-	70.00
Community Pastor Role Fund	6966.51	15,690.43	16,643.34	6,013.60
Interest	6.28	9.73	-	16.01
Totals at 31st December	17,237.43	21,780.45	23,086.21	15,931.67

Community Fund

Emmanuel Community Church	600.00	
PHX Training	551.00	
Cumbria Community Fund	500.00	
Furness Community Network (WAF Council)	1000.00	
Anon Donation (Children/Family Events)	250.00	
Unite Barrow	500.00	
Nathans Waste Savers	382.10	
Yarn Bomb	101.92	
Petty Cash		600.00
Accommodation for Asylum Seeker		702.28

Community Pastor Role Fund

Donations	690.43	
Transfer from Legacy (R Walsh)	15,000.00	
Salary		16,643.33

Designated Funds

	Balances 31.12.2023	Receipts	Payments	Balances 31.12.2024
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	930.21	-	-	930.21
Interest	138.54	181.61	-	320.15
Totals at 31st December	13,238.68	181.61	-	13,420.29

Reserves

	Balances 31.12.2023	Receipts	Payments	Balances 31.12.2024
Interest	2,725.63	1,985.94	1,475.85	3,235.72
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	-	2,232.00	1,958.77
Special Projects	6,511.00	-	-	6,511.00
Technical Upgrade	480.78	-	-	480.78
Other	-	-	-	-
Sub Totals	14,657.24	-	2,232.00	12,425.24
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	-	25,000.00	15,000.00	10,000.00
Other (Unallocated)	56,600.18	(25,000.00)	-	31,600.18
Sub Totals	61,197.60	-	15,000.00	46,197.60
Totals at 31st December	83,489.57	1,985.94	18,707.85	66,767.66

Notes re Reserves

Interest

Organ - Woodworm & Key replacement 1,475.85

Fabric

Sump Drains 1,260.00
Unblock downpipes 480.00
Electrical Inspection 492.00

Allocation of Restricted Collections/Donations for Charities

2024

Funeral Collections

Hospice@Home (Westwood)	455.25
St Mary's Hospice (Hargreaves 50%)	61.49
Cancer Care (Hargreaves 50%)	61.48
Abbey View at Furness General Hospital (McCracken)	361.00
British Heart Foundation (Sproxtton)	406.80
Water Aid (Meadows 50%)	46.50
Save the Children (Meadows 50%)	46.50
Dementia UK (Litt)	35.00

Retiring Collections

Christian Aid	74.37
Children Society - Christingle	183.32
Children Society - Carols by Candlelight	66.00
CDBF Growth Fund - Firepit Confirmation Service	77.74

Furness Churches United Choirs Performances

St Mary's Hospice (Pharisee 50%)	117.83
CMM Trust (Pharisee 50%)	117.83
St Mary's Hospice (Gondaliers)	459.77
St Mary's Hospice (Songs of Advent and Christmas 50%)	79.73
CMM Trust (Songs of Advent and Christmas 50%)	79.72

Dalton Town Band

St Mary's Hospice (Anniversary)	503.90
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Children Society - Christmas cards donations	95.55
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Totals

3,329.78

Fees Account

Receipts

2024

2023

Church Funeral Fees	2,016.00	1,603.00
Crematorium Funeral Fees	-	228.00
Interment	-	-
Banns	-	-
Wedding	-	1,050.00
Baptism Certificate	-	-

Total Receipts

2,016.00

2,881.00

Payments

Organist	-	-
Verger	120.00	60.00
Technicians - Audio Visual Fund	120.00	60.00
Retired Clergy	428.95	-
Carlisle Diocesan Board of Finance	552.82	1,451.00
St Mark's PCC	794.23	1,310.00

Total Payments

2,016.00

2,881.00