



Holy Trinity Darlington

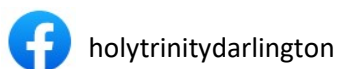
Annual Report 2020



Priest-in-charge currently vacant

Enquiries 07735 499 744 admin@holytrinity-darlington.org.uk

Find us online at www.holytrinity-darlington.org.uk

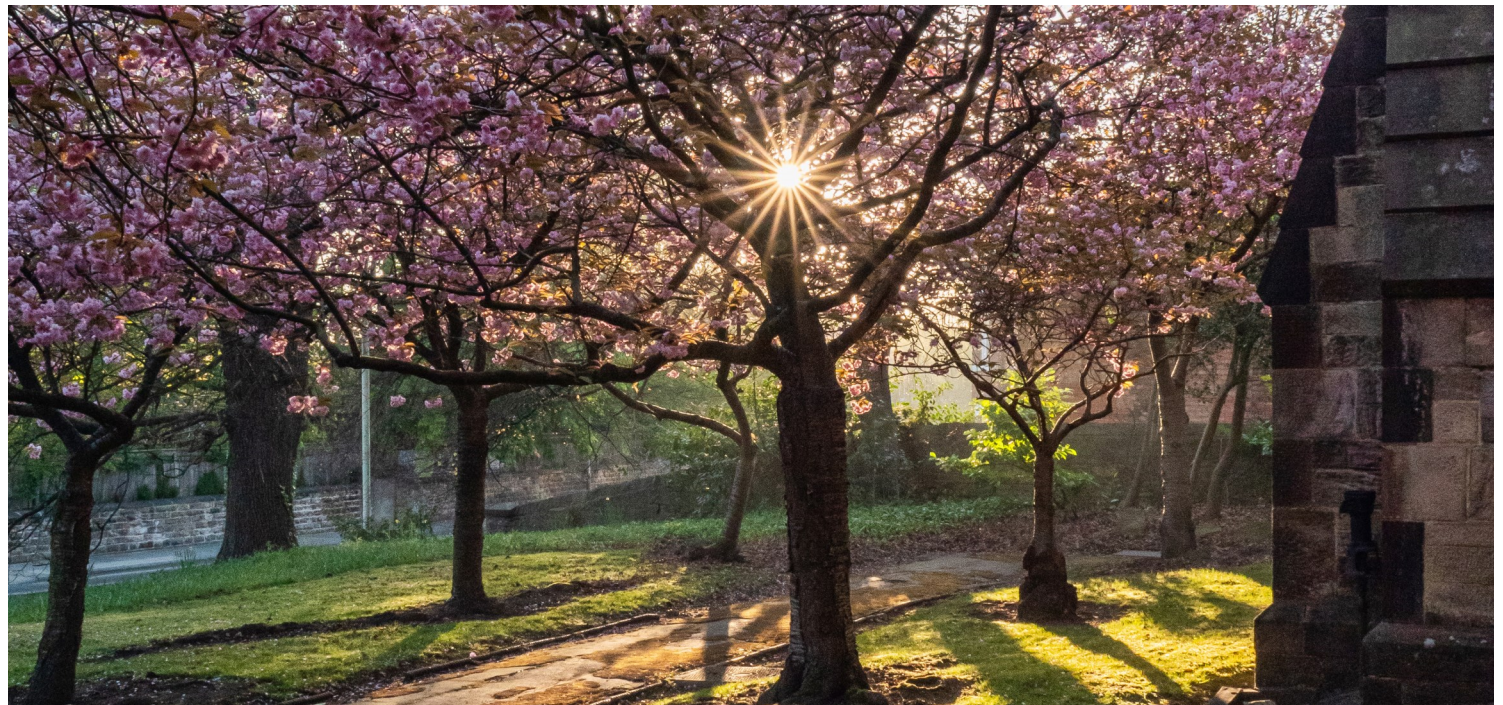




Holy Trinity Darlington

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Holy Trinity Darlington Welcome!

Our annual report is an opportunity to thank one another – for all the coffees served (lots more to come this year!), the music played, the readings and prayers, the cleaning, the flowers, the hospitality and welcome, the friendships developed, the children and youth ministry, and the opportunities to explore faith. We have so much to be thankful for and so much to look forward to. So, to all who serve, all who offer their time and gifts and energy and joy to serving church and each other – thank you. Together we make the church.

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. (1 John 4:7)

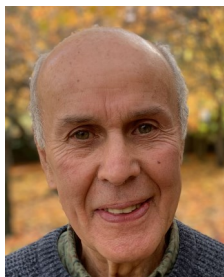
This has been one of the most challenging years globally with the Covid-19 pandemic which has had a huge impact on the normal life of the church, that combined with being in interregnum, could have caused us many difficulties. As a church we have emerged as a resilient group who have found new ways to worship and connect with each other.

We quickly embraced Zoom church as a church family and have continued to meet in this manner in 2021. We have also increased our presence on social media and improved our website along with altering the format of our pew sheet to cater for at home worship. When we were able to meet back in our church building (in an understandably restricted manner) we continued to broadcast our live service via Zoom, something we intend to maintain well into the future. We will also be looking to improve our wi-fi network and put screens into our church building in order to bring the ‘visual worship’ that we have enjoyed in Zoom services into our live church setting.

We have been blessed with a wealth of experienced clergy to minister to us during our interregnum, and this has been stimulating, refreshing and healing. We have re-discovered that our church is not just the building; it is the people, it is not just the gathering, it is also the scattering. We have been thinking of new ways to engage with our wider church family through bulb gift baskets, pew sheet deliveries, POSADA, a new Zoom home group, Christmas and Easter cards; and in the future more ‘real life’ gatherings, with ‘Harvest Festivals’, bring and share events, coffee mornings, fundraisers and much more!

Our future looks full of faith, hope and love as our new priest-in-charge, Rev James Harvey, arrives in April. We look forward to welcoming him and his family with open arms and minds. We look to our new priest and

PCC to discern our vision and priorities which work to our strengths, grounded in faith, prayer and ultimately guided by God’s loving presence.



John Whitham & Eleanor Blackburn

Holy Trinity Churchwardens

April 2021



Holy Trinity Darlington

Review of the year

2020 has been a year like no other, and while it certainly had more challenging times than an average year, we have pulled together in a way that we may not have imagined possible before the year began.

At the start of 2020 we were already in uncertain times at Holy Trinity, our one remaining churchwarden had resigned at the end of 2019, so we started the year without our primary lay leadership roles in place. Calls for volunteers to fill the two churchwarden vacancies did not provide any joy, so the parish meeting called to elect new churchwardens on 12th January was closed without nominations.

On 13th January our incumbent, Rev Matthew Firth, tendered his resignation to the Bishop of Durham. His last service was on Easter Sunday 12th April 2020 and he relinquished his position as priest-in-charge on 12th July 2020.

Throughout January and February 2020 news stories about the coronavirus Covid-19 were starting to become more frequent. We had little idea about how much this was going to impact our lives. On March 23rd 2020 the whole country was ordered to stay at home with church services suspended. This was new territory for everyone.

The PCC formally requested permission from the Bishop of Durham to suspend public worship from 22nd March 2020 to 5th July. Subsequently this was extended to 6th September making a total of 25 weeks without regular public worship in church.

Our pew sheet became a weekly email, we updated our website and Facebook pages and started a WhatsApp message group to keep people informed when we could not meet in person. Particular care was taken to deliver pew sheets to those who were unable to receive e-mails.

Throughout the early days of lockdown our PCC secretary, Robert Eden, assumed an IT wizard role and adopted Zoom video conferencing tools to facilitate meetings and online worship so that we could keep some semblance of 'business as usual'. You really are never too old to learn – several members of the congregation surprised themselves with how they able to use computers or tablets to connect over Zoom and join our worship on a Sunday from the comfort of the sofa, whilst others found alternative ways to worship until the church building was reopened.

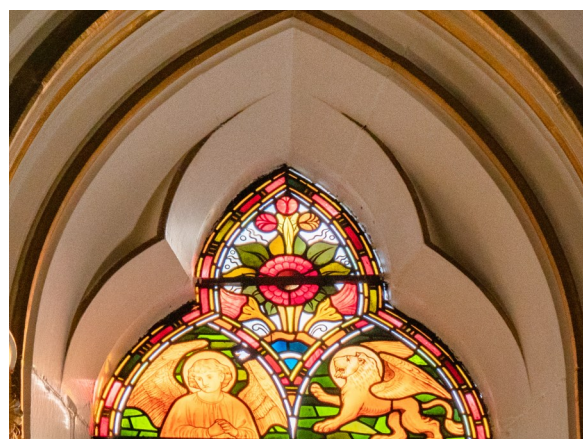
Rev Matthew Firth held his last service with us by Zoom on Easter Sunday and due to the ongoing restrictions, we were sadly unable to hold any event to mark his departure.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. (Proverbs 3 v5-6)

Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting in respect of 2019 was postponed from its original date in April 2020 because we were not able to meet in person. It was finally held on 11th October 2020.

From 26th July until 6th September we ran a Sunday evening service at Holy Trinity with the morning service still on Zoom with St Cuthbert's. On 13th September Holy Trinity and St Cuthbert's recommenced our Sunday morning services in church with a live link on Zoom to enable those who were not able to join us in person. We continued this hybrid version throughout the remainder of 2020. Church was certainly different – following a thorough risk assessment and interpretation of the guidelines provided by the Church of England, we implemented a number of changes in order to keep everyone as safe as we can. These included restricting the number of pews available to enable social distancing, using a one-way system around the building, requiring masks to be worn at all times when inside, implementing a sign-in process so that we could "track and trace" any attendees should we need to, providing hand sanitiser throughout the building as well as re-thinking how to hold a communion service to ensure the safety of all attendees. We were unable to hold the Annual Civic Remembrance Service in November as a result of suspension of services for 4 weeks during the second national lockdown. Our Christmas services were very different to how they have been in the past.

We did not anticipate that the first lockdown would continue until July, or that there would be further periods of restrictions throughout the rest of the year. As we look back on what has been a very unusual year, it is not surprising that we have emerged stronger, with more determination to stay connected and with stronger links with our sister church St Cuthbert's.



Holy Trinity Darlington Why are we here?



Holy Trinity Church's parochial church council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the priest-in-charge (or during a period of interregnum with the Bishop) in promoting the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also responsible for the maintenance of the church building in Woodland Road.

The PCC has legal ownership and direct management responsibilities for Walkington House, the church hall in Vane Terrace, DL3 7AT (which is vested in the Durham Diocese Board of Finance for and on behalf of Holy Trinity Darlington PCC).

The PCC also has legal ownership of Pierremont Hall, Pierremont Road, DL3 6DG (which is vested in the Durham Diocese Board of Finance for and on behalf of Darlington Holy Trinity PCC). Pierremont Hall is run by a separate charity, Holy Trinity Youth Centre Management Committee registered charity number 507430, who have full responsibility for the management, maintenance and operation of the building. As this charity is constitutionally separate from Holy Trinity Church PCC, matters related to Pierremont Hall are not considered in this report.

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community at Holy Trinity. This has been particularly challenging this year due to interregnum and the global pandemic however we have worked hard to adapt and create new ways of worshipping and engaging with our parish community.

The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and works to try and provide services and events that suit the needs of our local parish. We also work with our sister Church, St Cuthbert's to carry out joint services and some shared events. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament. We have had a period of reflection during interregnum and look forward to consolidating our vision with our new priest-in-charge in the coming months.



Holy Trinity Darlington

Vision & structure—part 1



A period of interregnum is a time of reflection – a time to take stock of where we are now, what our vision and mission for the future looks like, and what qualities we might desire from a new incumbent.

The lockdown situation made it impossible to meet in person to hold the kind of 'Vision Day' that we might have planned following Matthew's departure, so instead, we sent out a questionnaire to all followed by an online meeting to consider our vision and mission as we move forward from one incumbent to the next facilitated and guided by Ven Rick Simpson. While we didn't manage to fully form our opinions on our vision and mission in the short time available, we did make some positive steps towards understanding where we are now and the areas that would like to focus on in the short term. We hope that our new minister will help us to make further steps towards a shared journey together to advance God's mission in our parish.

It is clear that we need to grow our church both in terms of number and faith. Over the last 3 years the vision, mission and outreach of our church has declined and as a result, the number of regular worshippers has also declined. We are fortunate to be blessed with talented, caring and committed people, are in a great location in our town and currently have sound finances which all stand us in a great position for a positive

What our church family are hoping to work on...



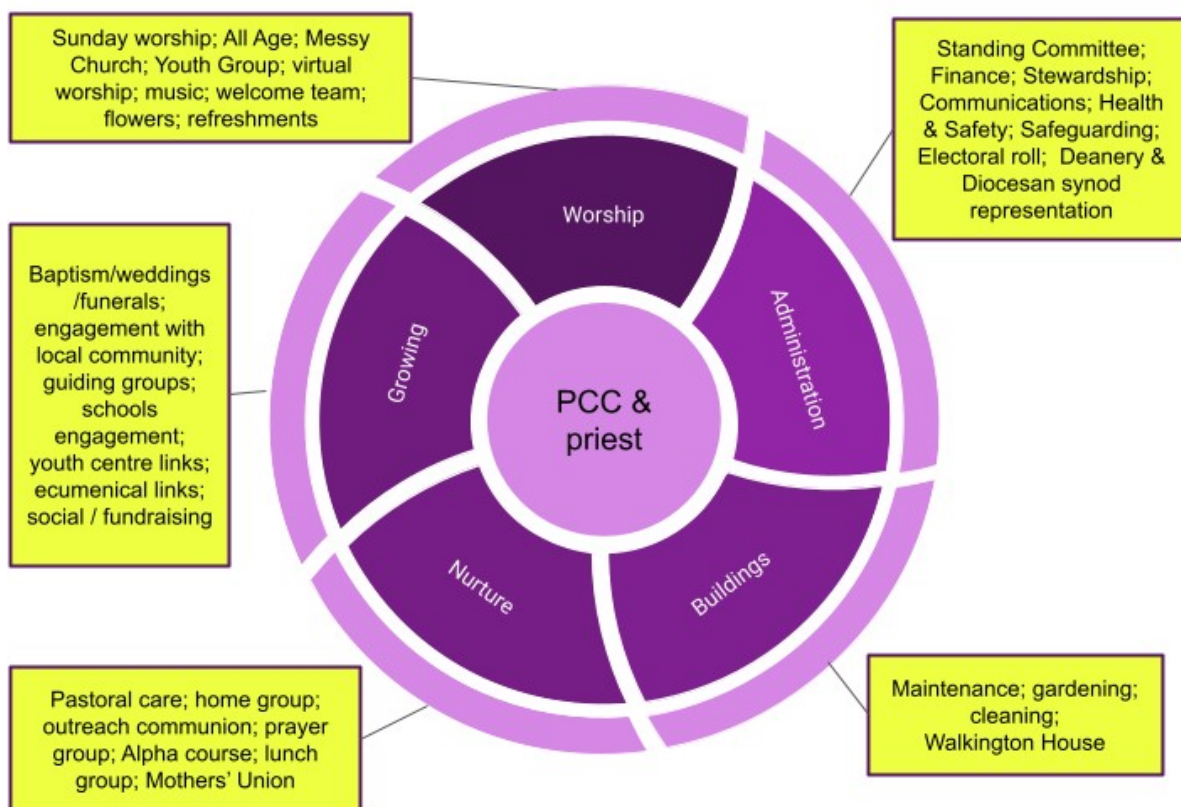
Holy Trinity Darlington

Vision & structure—part 2



The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps. (Proverbs 16:9)

Following on from our vision day meeting our PCC spent some time considering how to visually represent our structure in a way that makes it easier for anyone to understand what we do. As our thoughts started to come together, we realised that not only can this make it easier to understand our structure, but we can also understand our strengths and weaknesses and align our priorities in these categories. Some of the examples are perhaps more aspirational than reality at present, but it gives an indication of the kind of activities that we include in the groupings. We will continue to develop and more fully form these first thoughts and aim to use the framework to guide both the administrative groupings behind our efforts and our main objectives. We are keen for this chart to remain a 'working document' which will flex and change as we discern our priorities.



Worship

God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth. (John 4:24)

We have had to be very flexible this year with the services and worship we can and cannot run. We have continued to provide a Sunday morning worship via Zoom or in church throughout the year. This has been a whole new world of discovering new ways of worship grounded in thoughtful and carefully worded liturgy. Visual worship has been an exciting aspect of Zoom which many have enjoyed, along with the ability to remain at home on a cold, wintery day! When in church, we have had to be mindful of health and safety and keeping everyone safe during the pandemic. Music has been a lovely feature, whether played over our sound system, or on the organ or performed by our socially distanced music group. We have tried to enhance the worship experience when we can. We also managed to conduct evening prayer over the summer, which was well attended and included a 'Covid lament service' which brought some healing for those affected by Covid-19. Our welcome team continue to support the wardens, offer a smiling face and help to keep everyone safe as they enter our church building. We remain full of hope and look forward to discerning the services, events and gatherings that we can restart with our new priest-in-charge. In particular we look forward to being able to restart serving refreshments after a service, using our friendly refreshments team. 'Breaking bread' together is something we have truly missed and can't wait to bring this element of our services back and extend this into our wider engagement with our community.

All Age Worship

All Age worship has rather taken a back seat this year due to the pandemic. In normal times we have a lively planning group who plan fun, energetic, interactive services full of music and prayer. In 2020 instead of our usual Christingle service we masterminded a 'Grab and Go Christingle' event with carol singing, mulled wine and fellowship; all socially distanced! We reached out to our community and gave out 50 Christingle bags and raised £200 for The Children's Society. We look forward to reintroducing our monthly All Age services when we can do so safely.



Messy Church

Following a very quiet period during lockdown, in December of 2020 we experienced our first very successful Messy Church Zoom meeting with the nativity story as our theme. Music, scavenger hunts, prayers, animal noises, lots of laughter ensued and some new members! In 2021 we are exploring Old Testament stories and having lots of fun on Zoom. We have big plans for a superhero party when we can meet again in real life, with fancy dress, and looking at the superheroes in the Bible and in our wider community. Exciting times ahead for this lovely group.

Flowers in church

Easter flowers, as well as worshippers, were absent in 2020, most likely for the first time in Holy Trinity's 182-year history. With the country's first lockdown starting during Lent, the fortnightly rota of flower arranging that would have begun over the Easter weekend was put on hold. However, a handful of the florally minded ensured that fresh flowers were occasionally on display at various times in the rest of the year once socially distanced services resumed. A pedestal arrangement in muted tones complemented the evening Covid lament service in August. Bright colours created a cheerful backdrop at the Sunday harvest festival in October. In November, red and white carnations for Remembrance Sunday were already on order when the UK's second lockdown began and services were again suspended. Regardless of this they were used to create two pedestal arrangements symbolising love, loss and peace. People were back in church during Advent when the ring with candles was adorned in the usual way with evergreen leaves. Foliage, artificial flowers and festive decorations were combined in a fewer than usual number of arrangements for Christmas.



Holy Trinity Darlington

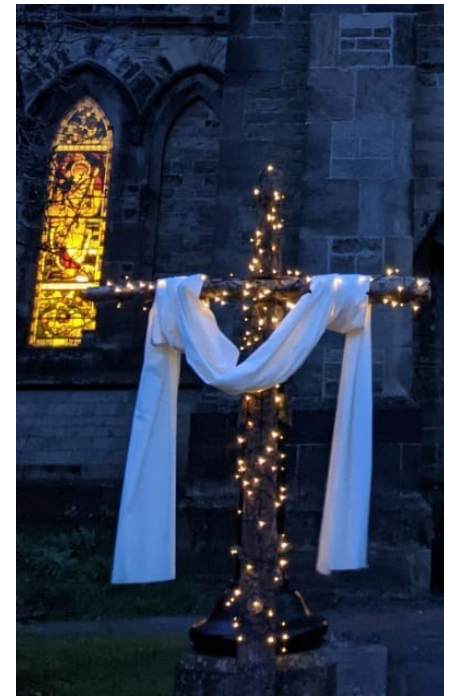
Achievements & performance — growing

Growing

This area has so much hope, prayer and potential behind it. We feel that our new priest-in-charge will help us to re-engage with local schools, nurseries, hospitals, other churches and the people of Darlington. We want to share our church building, our faith, and our warm welcome.

We have held very few funerals in church in the past 3 years, but have begun to rebuild relationships with the local funeral directors and wish and hope to be open to all to use our church building. Likewise, weddings and baptisms have been rare over the past 3 years during the pandemic due to numbers restrictions but again we hope to book more of these during this coming year; we need to share our beautiful cherry blossom trees with the people of Darlington.

Another area we are keen to re-ignite is our engagement with youth in our area, something that we will be looking forward to working with our new priest-in-charge to mastermind.



Fundraising Group

In 2019 a small group gathered to share ideas on how we could raise funds, share fellowship and involve our local community. Starting from a base of 2019 successes (the harvest “festival”, rag wreath making, carol singing and Christmas raffle and more) we were poised for some fantastic events in 2020. We held a quiz night in February in church which was a very lively and successful evening, however our grand plans for an EcoFest in July, community carnival stalls, afternoon teas, staycation BBQ and more had to be put on hold due to the pandemic. We hope to be back with our plans in 2021 and 2022 – better late than never!



2nd Darlington (Holy Trinity) Rainbows, Brownies & Guides

Whilst the guiding organisations may not be officially linked to the church, many of our church family are involved in running the groups, so we very much regard them as part of our church family and we love to see them at our services and events.

The Rainbows, Brownies and Guides have been unable to meet face to face since the introduction of the lockdown in March. From October they moved online and held their meetings on Zoom. Girls could either join the weekly online meeting or work on activity packs at home. The groups have continued to work towards their badges with a focus on activities aimed at keeping healthy in mind and body. For the Guides, many of their planned trips and adventures have been put on hold for the moment, but they hope that they will be able to happen in 2021 and 2022.



Nurture

As a church we pride ourselves on being a warm, welcoming, kind and friendly group of people who care for our church family. Ordinarily, our pastoral care team work to ensure that we keep in touch with all of our church family even if attending church on a Sunday is not possible; our retired clergy and authorised 'Communion Assistants' take outreach communion to the homes of those who cannot attend church; our home groups and prayer groups meet to further knowledge and faith; our Sunday lunch group meets once a month to share a meal together. Many other friendships, get togethers and informal meetings also happen between fellow pilgrims and make our bonds together as a church family more meaningful. Covid restrictions have impacted on all of these important nurture areas of our church life and have prevented most from taking place at all for most of the year.

Throughout it all we have tried to ensure that we kept in touch with all our church members through the weekly pew sheet delivered by e-mail or by hand. Not to mention the many informal contacts from one member to another to make sure that all was well.

These have been difficult times as we all grappled with our own challenges (grieving, home schooling, worrying, getting sick, shielding, isolating, more worrying) in this strange "new normal" as well as trying to care for our extended church family without an incumbent to guide us.



We must record our thanks to Rev Andrew and Catharine Wigram who moved to Nottingham in August 2020. They have been very valued members of our worshipping community for over 15 years and they leave a large space to fill in our church family. Andrew's support as a retired clergy member taking weekly services and funerals and both Andrew and Catharine's gentle guidance in running home study and prayer groups will be very much missed. We are grateful for Catharine's Easter garden installations and her marvellous flower arrangements over the years. Many will also miss the fruits of their garden and kitchen – we are going to have to find new sources of jams, chutneys and marmalade in 2021.

Another member of our church family who moved to pastures new in 2020 was Rachael Phillips. She started her ordinand training in October 2020 attached to All Saints' Church in Darlington. We are super excited for Rachael in her training – we know she will be successful in her ministry and we will miss her, Dickie and Elizabeth.

Mothers' Union

Due to the coronavirus epidemic, there were only two meetings this year – the AGM on 19th February and a service in church on Wednesday 21st October which was led by Kath Wood. This service was attended by Rev Christine Blakesley and was based on a resource called 'Women who loved Jesus' provided by the MU.

Currently we have 10 active members. At the AGM in 2020, Dorothy Green stepped down as secretary and was replaced by Mary Grimes. We are grateful to Dorothy for the service that she has given and are grateful to Mary for taking on the role.

2021 will see further changes in our leadership as Florence Deacon will be stepping down as branch leader at the AGM. We are grateful to Florence for her unflinching service and we pray that we will be able to welcome a new branch leader at our AGM.



Holy Trinity Darlington Buildings



Holy Trinity Church was consecrated in 1838, having been built as a chapel of ease for St Cuthbert's to accommodate Darlington's expanding population in the 1830s. We currently have a capacity of around 400 (or approx. 60 under current covid restrictions!).

The main body of the church consists of nave with side aisles (containing the Lady Chapel), choir, historic organ and sanctuary. The church has some fine historic features including stained-glass windows by Edwin Cook and Daniel Cottier and interesting Minton encaustic tiles in the chancel. Our bell tower has a ring of 6 bells and is used as a training resource for local bell-ringers.

Our church hall, Walkington House, is located in Vane Terrace across the road from the church. It is a relatively small hall built in the 1970s. Currently it is underused and we need to determine whether this building has a role to play in our future mission.

Our Quinquennial inspection took place this year, which had pleasing results with nothing really urgent to attend to. The current wardens have continued to look after our church building and prior to the APCM the annual stock take (terrier) of the church and contents has been completed and all necessary maintenance checks have been carried out. John Whitham has been instrumental in keeping the buildings in tip-top shape with the help of the buildings team comprising David Morgan and Philip Park. Our church grounds have beautiful flowers and interesting shrubs planted and maintained by willing volunteers. A big thank you to Kath Wood and Tom Fowke for their ongoing work in the church grounds, which is invaluable.

Our church gates and railings were painted as a very kind gift in memory of the late Rev Geoff Wood who died in April 2020. They are now a very welcoming gateway off Woodland Road.

We have experienced some anti-social behaviour in the church yard during 2020 and a meeting with Matthew Snedker (our local councillor) helped us to find a way forward with this issue. We unlocked the gate on the South side to prevent further damage to the adjoining wall and John organised and had that wall repaired successfully. John also organised for the gutters to have any leaves removed and had forensic marking paint put onto our guttering and painted on the back of our John Duncan painting, *the adoration of the Magi*.

This year we changed insurers from Ecclesiastical to Trinitas which resulted in a monetary saving for the same service. John Whitham and David Morgan met with the new insurers to discuss the details of our cover and ensure that we were doing all that is expected of us.

Walkington House is currently closed, and has been for a year, due to the pandemic, however it is being checked on a weekly basis by Mary Grimes, for which we are grateful.

Our cleaning team have had a dormant period of late, due to infrequent services and lockdowns but are sure to be back in force as soon as possible, regardless of this, we remain grateful for their care of the fabric of our church.

Deanery synod

Our church is part of the Deanery of Darlington and therefore sends representatives to Deanery Synod meetings to represent our church. These meetings not only provide us with a link to the wider church in Darlington but also allow us to contribute to the recommendations that the Deanery makes to Diocesan Synod and the Bishop's Council for plans for the Deanery area. The current Deanery Plan has been accepted and signed off by Bishop's Council and it is hoped that, once deanery activity restarts, teams will be formed to progress the main objectives.

The deanery is now organised into two groups (northern and southern) to facilitate collaborative working and make best use of stipendiary clergy. There will be an emphasis on the development of lay ministry in the future as we are unlikely to obtain additional clergy resources in the deanery.

There was one meeting of the Deanery Synod before Covid-19 curtailed activity for the remainder of 2020. This meeting signalled the end of a triennium and many long serving members stepped down and were thanked for their years of service.

There is concern about deanery finances, due to a disappointing response to parish share offers. This will be further discussed in 2021.



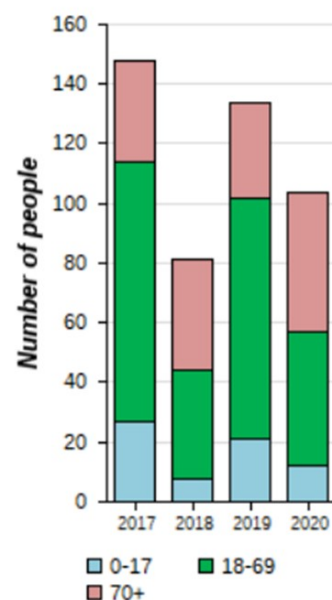
Electoral roll & worshipping community

The electoral roll is the church's register of electors. In the same way that being on the civic electoral roll allows you to vote in parliamentary and local elections and referenda, joining the church electoral roll means that you can vote on church matters, attend the annual parochial church meeting (APCM) and stand for election to the PCC. You can, of course, be a full and active member of Holy Trinity Darlington without joining the electoral roll. Being on the electoral roll does not entail signing up to any additional commitments, however, it does help the church show its strength.

The electoral roll must be fully revised every 6 years – our last revision took place in March 2019. The numbers on our electoral roll are as follows:

	APCM 2019	APCM 2020
Resident in the parish	43	45
Not resident in the parish	30	31
Total on Electoral Roll	73	76

It is difficult to understand how our worshipping community will adjust following the pandemic and our changed service patterns. Online worship was new to us. We discovered some really positive aspects to this form of collective worship and we acknowledge that it is not a medium that all embrace, however we hope that we will be able to utilise our new skills in our future journey in faith. Our best estimate of our 2020 was as follows:



Health & Safety

Health and safety is a stewardship responsibility that we take seriously at Holy Trinity Darlington. Health and safety legislation applies to church buildings, as it does to any other public building; and PCC members are responsible for compliance with these laws. Church members, visitors, hirers of the hall and volunteers all need to be kept safe whilst we carry out our worship, mission and ministry. The churchwardens carry out regular risk assessments for our buildings and services in church and support others to prepare risk assessments for other activities taking place in our buildings or towards our mission. Any risks identified on these assessments are considered and, if necessary, procedures are introduced to minimise the risk of any incident or accident.



Safeguarding

We are committed to looking after the wellbeing and dignity of absolutely everyone in contact with our church, whether part of our congregation, visitor, clergy or volunteer. Safeguarding is everyone's business. Everybody working or volunteering with our church should understand it, even those who don't work directly with children or adults at risk. We follow the House of Bishops guidance and policies and have our own parish safeguarding officer, Helen Morgan.

Our policies for working with children and vulnerable adults have been agreed by the PCC and are displayed in church, Walkington House and Pierremont Hall. All members of the PCC and other members of the congregation, where applicable, have received appropriate safeguarding training and DBS checks are up to date. The PCC has agreed lists of those members of the congregation who are approved to work with children and vulnerable adults.

The parish safeguarding check list has been reviewed and shared with the PCC. The two items on the parish safeguarding action plan (the creation of a new workers and volunteers induction plan and a Facebook user policy) have not been formally addressed due to Covid-19 restrictions. They will form the basis of the safeguarding action plan for 2021.

Our website and Facebook pages have always followed safeguarding good practice, but particular careful consideration has been given to safeguarding online activities during 2020 as more of our communication moved online. Advice has been sought and any changes required have been incorporated in to our Facebook and website.

No safeguarding concerns have been raised during 2020 which require matters to be referred onwards under the diocesan safeguarding process.





But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand. (Chronicles 29:14)

We begin a reflection on our finances with thanksgiving to God. Thanksgiving for his generosity to us, for the generosity of our communities and for all that we have been able to do as a result of this generosity.

This has indeed been a very unusual year. The closure of our church in March 2020 as a result of the national lockdown had an immediate impact on our finances. Plate collections and fundraising events could not occur and our income took turn for the worse. Looking on the bright side, our costs also decreased as discretionary spending stopped.

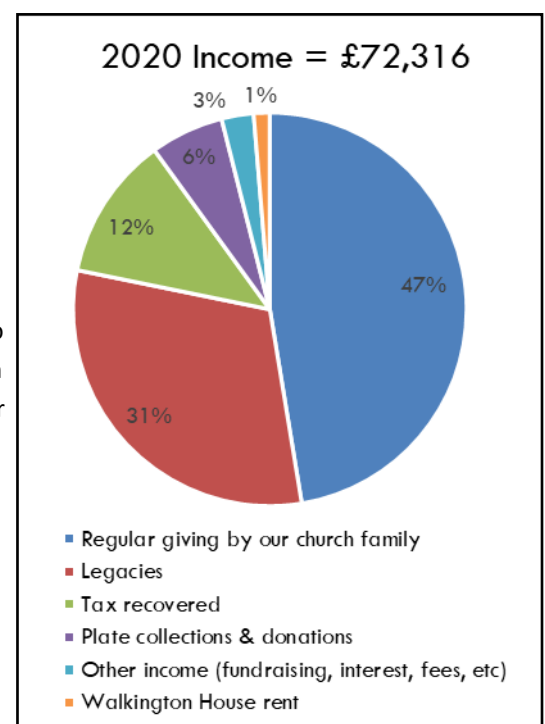
The reality of our finances is our regular income and expenditure continue to be out of step, however we do have reserves in the bank and are hopeful for the future. The challenge ahead is how we increase our income so that we can continue to support our mission at Holy Trinity Darlington.

Where does our income come from?

As a parish, we do not receive any state funding and rely on the generous giving of our church family and visitors. We are very grateful to all those who contribute financially to our church.

During lockdown, regular giving by standing order and the Parish Giving Scheme continued to be paid into our bank account which enabled us to pay our regular bills. We were very glad that some envelope givers took the opportunity to start giving via the Parish Giving Scheme or bank transfer. In Covid-19 times, the use of cash adds extra complexity to our counting and banking processes as we try to ensure the safety of all our volunteers.

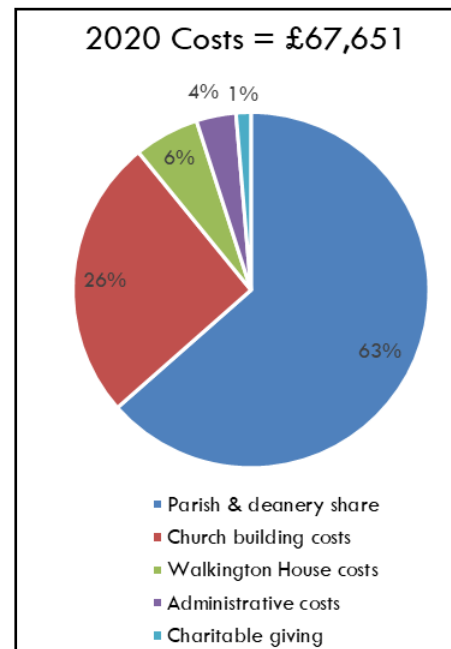
We received the final payment from an incredibly generous legacy in December which turned our finances around in 2020. It really was the answer to a prayer to receive such a generous bequest at a time when our income was low as a result of lockdown and on the downward trend over the past few years.



What does it cost to run our church?

The majority of our costs this year have been in paying our Parish Share and looking after our buildings. 'Parish Share' is the money that we pay to the Diocese of Durham which pays for our minister's stipend, training for lay people and clergy and supports all aspects of the mission of the Diocese. It enables us to continue to offer regular worship, in addition to baptisms, weddings and funerals, and those services which bring the community together at Christmas, Easter and Remembrance.

We have taken some actions to reduce our costs – we continue to be part of the national Parish Buying Energy Basket which gives us the bulk buying power of thousands of churches to obtain competitive prices for our gas and electricity. We switched insurance provider from Ecclesiastical Insurance Group to Trinitas Church Insurance Services giving us the benefit of substantially lower annual costs and the ability to pay monthly by direct debit.



Our largest annual cost continues to be our Parish Share to the Diocese and our annual discussion around our commitment for the coming year was a tricky consideration for us all. In recent years we have continued to increase our Parish Share commitment by inflation, even though we are aware that we have declining regular income, because we held strong cash reserves and are aware that other parishes may not be so fortunate. Our Parish Share is, therefore, now a much larger percentage of our income than in the past and this level of commitment is not sustainable in the long term. Ordinarily we would have looked to decrease our Parish Share commitment for 2021 as we look to match our costs to our lower income. Durham Diocese has a budget shortfall following a number of years of declining Parish Share commitments from parishes and the impact of Covid-19 restrictions on the Diocese's income. In an attempt to reverse this trend, the Diocese introduced a 'guided pledge' recommendation to each parish for the amount of Parish Share based on the resources that each parish has (clergy, people, resources, deprivation). Our recommendation was an inflationary increase on our 2020 commitment. After much discussion and consideration, the PCC prayerfully decided to use our reserves to support the Diocese in these exceptional times and to increase our current level of contribution by inflation for the coming year with the understanding that we work closely with Diocese to 'right size' our share in the future. God was definitely listening to our prayers on that subject, as the next week we received notification that we were to receive the final distribution from the legacy of Joyce Waites of £21,276.

Reserves & reserves policy

At the end of the year the PCC held total cash funds of £103,072. Our funds are held for a variety of purposes: to ensure that we can operate as a going concern in the future; to fulfil our charitable objectives; and, to fulfil the requests made by donors of funds.

Within our PCC we have two types of funds – restricted and unrestricted funds, summarised as follows:

- **Restricted funds (£243)** – these are held under trust law and so can only be used for specific purposes, as agreed with the donor. For example, money donated for the flowers in church, will be held until we purchase flowers to decorate the church. At the end of the year we had restricted funds for flowers £84 and grant monies not yet spent from the Thomas Barron Metcalfe Fund £159.
- **Unrestricted funds** - the remainder of the PCC's funds are general, unrestricted funds which are sums that are freely available for general use towards the work of our church and our charitable mission. Of these unrestricted funds the PCC has designated money to withstand any short-term financial requirements.

Our reserves policy is to hold a minimum of 6 months operating costs (approximately £38,000) and £20,000 to pay for emergency repairs to the fabric of the buildings. These funds are held in our cash accounts and are available immediately should the need arise. Our total unrestricted funds at the year end of £103,029 are in excess of our minimum reserves policy requirement.

You can read more about the detail of our finances in our financial statements which are available on request.

Holy Trinity Darlington

Governance & management



Holy Trinity Church is situated on Woodland Road, Darlington, DL3 7BQ. It is part of the Diocese of Durham within the Church of England. The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Holy Trinity, Darlington is registered charity number 1162481 with the Charities Commission for England and Wales.

Good governance is fundamental to our sustained success as a church. With it, we are best placed to deliver on our mission and achieve our objectives. It enables all our people to use their skills, along with our resources, to best effect. It helps us to ensure that we are compliant with relevant legislation and Church of England guidelines, have managed the risks we are facing, overseen our standard of operations and supported a positive culture. We review our charity governance, adhering to the Charity Governance Codes and regulations for England and Wales and Church of England guidelines.

Management of our church

The PCC, as trustees, set and agree the overall direction, strategy and culture of our church. They lead by example and support the priest-in-charge in the daily delivery of our activities. The PCC also evaluates the risks we face and ensures that we have appropriate policies and procedures in place to minimise those risks and by doing so, ensure that we meet our legal and compliance requirements as a charity.

PCC members are appointed under the rules set out in the current church governance guidelines, the Church Representation Rules. All who attend church are encouraged to register on the electoral roll and once on the electoral roll are entitled to stand for election to the PCC. With the exception of the priest-in-charge, all PCC members are volunteers. A list of current PCC members is available on request.

The two churchwardens are important lay leadership roles in our church. They are elected at the APCM and serve a term of 12 months (but often stay for longer). The official rights and responsibilities of churchwardens are laid down in Church Law. The role is extremely varied and, aside from working closely with the incumbent, covers management, maintenance, and ministry. Our churchwardens are the people who look after our buildings and are the smiley people making sure that all our services run smoothly. We are very grateful for the commitment and service that our churchwardens provide. Our thanks go to Enid Cooper for stepping in temporarily for her third stint as churchwarden and to John and Eleanor for committing to their new roles.

The standing committee of the PCC consists of 5 members of the PCC (the priest-in-charge, secretary, 2 churchwardens and treasurer). This group meets in between PCC meetings to plan the agenda for the PCC and to deal with any day-to-day concerns, emergencies or urgent business that may arise in between PCC meetings. Due to the shortage of churchwardens, the PCC appointed Catharine Wigram to the standing committee on 12th November 2019, stepping down in February 2020 on the election of the two new churchwardens. Following the resignation of Rev Firth, the lay-chair of the PCC, Helen Morgan, was appointed to the standing committee.

The PCC is supported by many other church members who volunteer their time to support our work, either individually or as part of a larger team. **We would like to acknowledge and thank every one of them – their hard work makes our church the vibrant and welcoming community that it is.**

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF
HOLY TRINITY, DARLINGTON**

Financial Statements

for the year ending 31 December 2020

Independent Examiner's report
To the Parochial Church Council of Holy Trinity, Darlington

This report is on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2020 which are set out on pages 3 - 9 following in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations'), and section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

Respective responsibilities of the trustees and examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements, and you consider the audit requirement of the Regulations and section 144(2) of the Act does not apply. It is my responsibility to issue a report on these accounts in accordance with the terms of the Church Accounting Regulations 2006.

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance, 2011 edition. The examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and the comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with the examination no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- (a) to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and
- (b) to prepare accounts in accordance with the accounting records and to comply with the requirements of the Act, as also contained in the Church Accounting regulations 2006 have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

David Park
38 Swaledale Avenue
Darlington
DL3 9AL

29 March 2021

Statement of Financial Activities

	Notes	2020 Unrestricted funds £	2020 Designated funds £	2020 Restricted funds £	2020 Total funds £	2019 Total funds £
Income from:						
Donations and legacies	2(a)	69,206	—	746	69,952	44,580
Income from charitable activities	2(b)	504	—	—	504	2,010
Other trading activities	2(c)	1,560	—	—	1,560	6,298
Investments	2(d)	85	215	—	300	662
Total income		71,355	215	746	72,316	53,550
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	2(e)	90	—	—	90	361
Expenditure on charitable activities	2(f)	67,014	—	547	67,561	74,713
Total expenditure		67,104	—	547	67,651	75,074
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfers		4,251	215	199	4,665	(21,524)
Transfers between funds		—	—	—	—	—
Net movement in funds		4,251	215	199	4,665	(21,524)
Total funds brought forward 1 Jan		221,468	50,769	44	272,281	293,805
Total funds carried forward 31 Dec		225,719	50,984	243	276,946	272,281

Balance sheet

	Notes	2020 Total funds £	2019 Total funds £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	3	170,619	178,145
		170,619	178,145
Current assets			
Debtors	4	3,805	9,009
Cash at bank and in hand	5	103,272	85,127
		107,077	94,136
Liabilities			
Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year	6	750	—
		750	—
Net current assets less current liabilities		106,327	94,136
Total net assets less liabilities		276,946	272,281
Represented by:	7		
Unrestricted			
General fund		225,719	221,468
Designated			
Building fund		20,391	20,305
General expenses fund		30,593	30,464
Restricted			
Charity collections		159	—
Flower fund		84	44
Funds of the church		276,946	272,281

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on Tuesday 9th March 2021 and signed on its behalf by:

Helen Morgan
PCC Chairman

The notes on pages 4 - 9 form part of these accounts.

Notes to the Financial Statements

1. Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 governing the individual accounts of PCCs together with the applicable accounting standards, FRS102 (2016) and the 2016 version of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP(FRS102)).

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis under the historical cost convention. The financial statements 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, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members. The activities of Holy Trinity Youth Centre are not included in the accounts of the PCC as it is a separately registered charity.

Funds

Restricted funds represent donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund. The PCC does not usually invest separately for each fund. Where there is no separate investment, interest is apportioned to the individual funds on an average balances basis.

Unrestricted funds are general funds which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes.

Designated funds are general funds set aside by the PCC for use in the future. Designated funds remain unrestricted and can be moved to other general funds if the PCC so decides. During the year the PCC designated general funds for the purpose of building repairs and funds to cover approximately 6 months church running expenses.

Incoming resources

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming resource to which they relate is received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due. All other income is recognised when it is receivable. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Resources expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan parish share is accounted for when due. Amounts received specifically for mission are dealt with as restricted funds. All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Fixed assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with sections 10(2)(a) of the Charities Act 2011.

Movable church furnishings held by the vicar and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory. For anything acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements. Subsequently no individual item has cost more than £1,000 so all such expenditure has been written off when incurred.

Freehold land and buildings comprise of the hall at Walkington House, Vane Terrace and the Youth Centre on Pierremont Road.

Walkington House was constructed by the PCC in the garden of 12 Vane Terrace (the house at 12 Vane Terrace was gifted to the parish in the 1960s and sold in 2013). No cost information was available for the property and the brought forward carrying value is the PCC's estimate of current market value of similar

property in the local area. No depreciation is provided on Walkington House as the currently estimated residual value of Walkington House derives mainly from the value of the freehold land which would not depreciate. Any resulting depreciation from an estimate of the building value is viewed to be immaterial.

The Youth Centre on Pierremont Road was constructed in 1974. The land and building are property of the PCC. The centre is operated by the Holy Trinity Youth Centre Management Committee (charity number 507430). No cost information is available for the property and no value is attributed to it in the accounts.

Fixtures, fittings and equipment used within the church & hall premises are depreciated on a straight-line basis over the useful economic life of the assets (ranging from 4 - 20 years). Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £1,000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Note 2 - Analysis of income and expenditure

	2020 Unrestricted £	2020 Designated £	2020 Restricted £	2020 Total £	2019 Total £
2(a) Income from donations and legacies					
Planned giving – Gift Aid	31,245	—	—	31,245	24,625
Planned giving - other	3,034	—	—	3,034	4,234
Loose plate collections	917	—	89	1,006	4,370
Donations appeals etc – Gift Aid	960	—	—	960	1,348
Donations appeals etc – other	2,039	—	357	2,396	1,669
Tax recoverable on Gift Aid	8,541	—	—	8,541	7,743
Legacies (see note 8)	22,276	—	—	22,276	—
Recurring grants (see note 9)	—	—	300	300	400
Other funds generated	194	—	—	194	191
Total	69,206	—	746	69,952	44,580
2(b) Income from charitable activities					
PCC fees for weddings and funerals	348	—	—	348	1,361
Assigned fees for weddings and funerals	77	—	—	77	543
Parish magazine sales	79	—	—	79	106
Total	504	—	—	504	2,010
2(c) Income from other trading activities					
Walkington House lettings	954	—	—	954	3,860
Fundraising events	513	—	—	513	2,222
Other fundraising	93	—	—	93	216
Total	1,560	—	—	1,560	6,298
2(d) Income from investments					
Bank and building society interest	85	215	—	300	662
Total	85	215	—	300	662
INCOME TOTAL	71,355	215	746	72,316	53,550

Note 2 - Analysis of income and expenditure (continued)

	2020 Unrestricted £	2020 Designated £	2020 Restricted £	2020 Total £	2019 Total £
2(e) Expenditure on raising funds					
Costs of stewardship campaign	—	—	—	—	147
Costs of fundraising events	90	—	—	90	214
Total	90	—	—	90	361
2(f) Expenditure on charitable activities					
(i) Parish share / Deanery share	42,960	—	—	42,960	41,865
(ii) Clergy & staffing costs					
Verger & organist fees	161	—	—	161	823
Working expenses of incumbent	135	—	—	135	359
Parsonage – water & phone	230	—	—	230	556
Parish training and mission	—	—	—	—	116
Youth & childrens activities	18	—	—	18	291
	544	—	—	544	2,145
(iii) Church running costs					
Insurance	5,586	—	—	5,586	5,664
Depreciation	5,575	—	—	5,575	6,421
Electricity, gas & water	3,735	—	—	3,735	4,215
Church maintenance	1,526	—	—	1,526	1,922
Security	654	—	—	654	879
Cleaning	—	—	—	—	4
Upkeep of services	992	—	56	1,048	1,039
Church equipment	110	—	—	110	—
Administration	271	—	—	271	254
Printing & stationery	770	—	—	770	1,018
Bank charges	(393)	—	—	(393)	442
Magazine expenses	—	—	—	—	45
	18,826	—	56	18,882	21,903
(iv) Church major repairs					
Church major repairs	250	—	—	250	—
	250	—	—	250	—
(v) Charitable giving (see note 10)					
Home mission	420	—	402	822	2,176
Secular charities	—	—	89	89	1,376
Relief and development agencies	—	—	—	0	—
	420	—	491	911	3,552
(vi) Walkington House running costs					
Electricity, gas & water	1,229	—	—	1,229	1,443
Insurance	612	—	—	612	731
Repairs & maintenance	222	—	—	222	224
Cleaning	—	—	—	—	899
Depreciation	1,951	—	—	1,951	1,951
	4,014	—	—	4,014	5,248
Total	67,014	—	547	67,561	74,713
EXPENDITURE TOTAL	67,104	—	547	67,651	75,074
TOTAL NET INCOME / (EXPENDITURE)	4,251	215	199	4,665	(21,524)

Note 3 Fixed assets for use by the PCC

	2020 Unrestricted £	2020 Designated £	2020 Restricted £	2020 Total £	2019 Total £
Fixed assets - Tangible assets					
Church servery	30,173	—	—	30,173	32,184
Church heating system	25,942	—	—	25,942	28,075
Church roof alarm	1,302	—	—	1,302	1,762
Church notice board	472	—	—	472	617
Church sound system	—	—	—	—	—
Church carpets	2,201	—	—	2,201	2,523
Chairs	3,864	—	—	3,864	4,368
Walkington House building	100,000	—	—	100,000	100,000
Walkington House windows	2,146	—	—	2,146	2,774
Walkington House kitchen	4,519	—	—	4,519	5,842
Walkington House floor	—	—	—	—	—
Holy Trinity Youth Centre	—	—	—	—	—
Total	170,619	—	—	170,619	178,145

Changes in fixed asset values during the year are summarized as follows:

	Holy Trinity Youth Centre	Walkington House	Walkington House fixtures, fittings & equipment	Church fixtures, fittings & equipment	Total
Gross book value 1 January 2020	—	100,000	22,832	101,802	224,634
Additions	—	—	—	—	—
Disposals	—	—	—	—	—
Gross book value 31 December 2020	—	100,000	22,832	101,802	224,634
Depreciation 1 January 2020	—	—	14,216	32,273	46,489
Disposals	—	—	—	—	—
Charge for the year	—	—	1,951	5,575	7,526
Depreciation 31 December 2020	—	—	16,167	37,848	54,015
Net book value 1 January 2020	—	100,000	8,616	69,529	178,145
Net book value 31 December 2020	—	100,000	6,665	63,954	170,619

Note 4 Current assets - Debtors

	2020 Unrestricted £	2020 Designated £	2020 Restricted £	2020 Total £	2019 Total £
Tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations	3,548	—	—	3,548	4,124
Other amounts receivable	257	—	—	257	—
Prepaid insurance	—	—	—	—	4,885
Totals	3,805	—	—	3,805	9,009

Note 5 Current assets – Cash at bank and in hand

	2020 Unrestricted £	2020 Designated £	2020 Restricted £	2020 Total £	2019 Total £
Current assets - Cash at bank and in hand					
Barclays current and deposit accounts	22,774	—	159	22,933	106
Darlington Credit Union deposit account	15,245	—	—	15,245	15,245
CCLA (CBF) deposit accounts	14,026	50,984	—	65,010	69,732
Cash in hand - Flower funds	—	—	84	84	44
Total	52,045	50,984	243	103,272	85,127

Note 6 Current liabilities – creditors falling due in less than one year

	2020 Unrestricted £	2020 Designated £	2020 Restricted £	2020 Total £	2019 Total £
Current liabilities – creditors due < 1 year					
Other invoices relating to the year	—	—	—	—	—
Wedding deposits	750	—	—	750	—
Total	750	—	—	750	—

Note 7 Fund movement by type

	2020 Opening £	2020 Incoming £	2020 Outgoing £	2020 Transfers £	2020 Closing £
Building Fund					
Restricted	—	—	—	—	—
Designated	20,305	86	—	—	20,391
Sub-total for Building	20,305	86	—	—	20,391
Church running expense fund					
Designated	30,464	129	—	—	30,593
Sub-total for Expenses	30,464	129	—	—	30,593
Charity collections					
Restricted	—	650	491	—	159
Sub-total for Charity	—	650	491	—	159
Flower fund					
Restricted	44	96	56	—	84
Sub-total for Flower	44	96	56	—	84
Walkington House fund					
Restricted	—	—	—	—	—
Sub-total for Flower	—	—	—	—	—
General fund					
Unrestricted	221,468	71,355	67,104	—	225,719
Sub-total for General	221,468	71,355	67,104	—	225,719
Grand total	272,281	72,316	67,651	—	276,946

Note 8 Legacies

During the year the PCC received legacies from the estates of the following persons:

	2020 Unrestricted £	2020 Designated £	2020 Restricted £	2020 Total £	2019 Total £
Legacies received					
Joan Butler	1,000	—	—	1,000	—
Joyce Waites	21,276	—	—	21,276	—
Total	22,276	—	—	22,276	—

In 2020 the PCC received the final distribution from the legacy of the late Joyce Waites who died in April 2014. The total received from Joyce's estate was £106,276, and was recognised when received in 2015, 2016 and 2020.

Note 9 Grants received

During the year the PCC received an annual grant allocation from the Thomas Metcalfe Barron Community First Fund of £300 (2019: £400). The grant conditions are that the funds are to be used to support activities linked to the festive season for the benefit of the elderly of the parish. In this unusual year, the grant conditions were varied to allow any activities that benefit members of the parish that are disadvantaged through poverty or isolation. In light of this, £141 was used to provide a Christmas hamper to eligible members of the Sunday lunch club and the remaining £159 was used in 2021 towards the costs of spring baskets distributed to all church members in February including a message of hope for the new year.

Note 10 Charitable and other giving

The following charitable giving payments were made during the year:

	2020 Unrestricted £	2020 Restricted £	2020 Total £	2019 Total £
Barnabas Fund	—	—	—	16
Children's Society	—	200	200	415
Christian Aid	—	61	61	49
Church Urban Fund	—	—	—	27
Churches together in Darlington	—	—	—	50
DACYM (M+M Stand)	375	—	375	900
Darlington Deanery school work "Christmas Journey"	—	—	—	50
Durham Lesotho Link	—	—	—	200
First Stop	—	—	—	25
Holy Trinity Lunch Club	—	141	141	400
Kings Church Foodbank	45	—	45	60
Macmillan Cancer Support	—	—	—	351
Mind	—	89	89	—
Mission to Seafarers	—	—	—	9
Royal British Legion	—	—	—	990
St Teresa's Hospice	—	—	—	10
Total	420	491	911	3,552

Extract from Financial Statements as submitted

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF HOLY TRINITY, DARLINGTON Page 2 of 9

YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2020

Independent Examiner's report

To the Parochial Church Council of Holy Trinity, Darlington

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(b) to prepare accounts in accordance with the accounting records and to comply with the requirements of the

Act, as also contained in the Church Accounting regulations 2006 have not been met; or

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