

# **The Parishes of Newton Abbot & Ogwell**

*Address for correspondence:*

*The Parish Office, St Paul's Church, Devon Square, Newton Abbot, TQ12 2HN*

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

for the year ended  
31<sup>st</sup> December 2023

Team Rector: Rev Dave Brown  
Team Vicar: Rev Gareth Regan  
Curate: Rev Ben Maynard

Bankers:  
Lloyds Bank, Courtenay Street, Newton Abbot

Independent Examiner:  
Mr Ian Barrett  
Barretts 22 Union Street Newton Abbot TQ12 2JS

Our web site:  
**[www.newtonabbotparishes.co.uk](http://www.newtonabbotparishes.co.uk)**

The Parochial Church Council is a Registered Charity no: 1172055

## **The Parochial Church Council of the Newton Abbot Parishes**

### **Annual Report for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023**

#### **Aim and Purpose –**

Newton Abbot and Ogwell Parochial Church Council (the PCC) together with the Incumbent, the Reverend Dave Brown and Team Vicar, Reverend Gareth Regan, and the wider congregation, share the task of building God's Kingdom in the ecclesiastical parish of Newton Abbot and Ogwell and beyond. Working through congregations in the five churches within the parish: St Paul's Devon Square, St Mary's Wolborough, St Bartholomew's Ogwell, All Saints' Highweek and St Mary's Abbotsbury, we seek to be a faithful, loving, and welcoming community of churches which are active in serving one another and the wider community, providing a wide variety of worship styles, so that all people might come to hear the Gospel and grow as disciples of Jesus.

#### **Objectives and Activities:**

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship in our Churches, and to become part of our parish family. When planning our activities, the PCC has considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, and in particular the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. Our services and worship seek to put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament. We

seek to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish family, and to connect and build that family, through:

- Regular Sunday and weekday worship services across the Parish in a variety of styles;
- Clear, relevant Bible teaching that is applied to everyday life;
- Home groups, discipleship courses and baptism preparation courses to teach the Christian faith;
- The provision of pastoral care for the sick, infirm or housebound church members, and other people living in the parish;
- Holding services in nursing and care homes, and taking collective worship in local schools;
- Taking weddings and funerals;
- Involvement in the civic life of the town;
- Mission and outreach activities, building bridges for faith within the wider community;
- The care and maintenance of our historic buildings; and
- Managing our finances well.

### **The Wider Parish.**

Although Sunday worship in different churches means we are really 5 worshipping communities linked as one ecclesiastical parish, there are times when we more obviously work together and worship together. This is particularly true on 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays when we rotate our services around the 6 churches of the benefice and worship in the style of that particular church. In 2023, that meant services at St Paul's, St Mary's Wolborough, Abbotsbury and St Bartholomew's Ogwell.

Wedding and baptism preparation classes are held centrally, and 'exploring faith classes' are available to all. Across the Parish there are 5 home groups running, where members of different church communities are invited to gather for fellowship and Bible study. Both St Paul's and St Bartholomew's host monthly coffee mornings to which everyone is invited. These raise a substantial amount of money for charity. Last year we also took part in shoe box appeal with Operation Christmas Child and 205 shoe boxes were collected.

Over the year we agreed our 5 Key Values and began work on identifying ways in which each mission community could implement them in their own way. Changes to our styles of service were implemented and reviewed, and we held a Church Weekend at Home with Bishop Nick McKinnel as our guest speaker.

In terms of our outreach and evangelism, we held an Easter Fun Day at St Paul's, completed a Prayer Walk around all 6 churches and extended our work in residential homes and schools across the parish. We also took part in various CTiNA events including the Walk of Witness and the setting up of a Prayer Gazebo in the town centre. We also ran a number of enquirers courses (Hope Explored and the Identity Course) and The Bible Course, aimed at growing disciples. We held an excellent evening with Professor John Bryant on Science and Christianity, and following votes in General Synod, the Parish held a short series of meetings concerning issues around human sexuality and the *Living in Love and Faith* process.

During the year there were 12 baptisms and 2 people were confirmed. There was also a service of the reaffirmation of baptism vows at Abbotsbury, and John Bealey began his training for the ordained ministry.

The PCC is grateful to all volunteers who contribute so much to the life of the parish, and to the church office staff for their work.

### **Electoral Roll**

The number on the roll is 155. During the year three members have died, three transferred to St Luke's electoral roll, and three have requested their names to be removed.

### **Abbotsbury church report for the period June 2023-April 2024**

The church is growing in numbers and in faith. We have completed our discussions on the parish's Five Key Values. We have celebrated our first wedding and our first adult baptisms by total immersion.

The church premises are used by several external organisations including Brownies, Guides, a playschool, local choirs, Newton Crisis Aid and has hosted events such as the diocesan Mission Shed, our own Christmas Journey which was well received by local schools, discussions on the Living in Love and Faith document and an evening lecture on science and Christianity.

Some of the church windows are in poor repair and will need extensive work in the near future. We have several leaks which will be addressed by clearing the gulleys in the first place. Our heating system is now functioning well.

We would like to thank Andy Faulkner for his work as churchwarden during this past year.

### **All Saints' report for the period June 2023-April 2024**

This year has been tinged with sadness with the illness and then passing of Jeremy. The church has continued to run with the help of various volunteers stepping in to help where they can.

Congregation numbers have remained stable with boosts at special services such as Christmas and christening. As always it is always nice to see a boost in attendance for these services. As always, Christmas was one of the high points with the church hosting its annual carols by candlelight.

We have also conducted consultations around moving the kitchen and toilet and look forward to the project moving forward.

### **St Bartholomew's churchwarden's report for the period June 2023-April 2024**

The last year has been a busy year for St Bartholomew's church. We have continued to hold coffee mornings each month. The church hosted bellringers from the Devon Guild of bellringers and was used for a local apple day.

Throughout the year regular attendance was 20-25. The highlight of the year was of course Christmas when we hosted carol concerts for the local school and another for the local community, as well as arranging a Christmas meal for the village, in the village hall. All these events would not have been possible without the help of volunteers such as Gwyn, Stella or Sam.

Just before Christmas new under-pew heaters were installed which was a relief to the congregation in the cold winter. In the coming year, we will look at ways to heat the choir too. Various administrative tasks have also been done such as a review of our risk assessments and inventory to make sure the church is secure. This year we are also looking to finally get the roof on the tower fixed to make it watertight.

### **St Mary's warden's report for the period June 2023-April 2024**

Life at St Mary's is ticking along quite nicely, with an average congregation of 26 and a small child! This year we have only had two baptisms and two weddings but eleven funerals.

After the sad loss of Denis last May we have a lovely gentleman, Michael Roberts, playing for the matins service on the first Sunday of the month. The other services have been covered by Janet, Clive and Judy.

Last year we had several historical societies coming for informative guided tours by Michael Martyn, a member of the congregation and a local historian. The carol service was a joyous affair and well attended by the parish; and the 8.30am service on Christmas morning was a thoughtful, gentle start to the day. We are looking forward to an Easter Sunday service which we didn't have last year – thank you Dave for listening to our dissatisfaction and re-instating it.

Recently we had our annual fire inspection and two more extinguishers have been fitted to the tower.

Thank you to all the clergy team and my lovely friends at St Mary's for all their help and support – and for picking up my mistakes before they are noticed!

### **St Paul's: Churchwarden's report for the period June 2023-April 2024**

St Paul's is a welcoming and friendly church, which benefits from having a good number of people serving in various ways to help the church function. Whilst the congregation is majority retired, there are a growing number of those of working age and a few families who now attend on a regular basis. In 2023, Sunday congregations were...with the Wednesday Communion Service numbering.....

During 2023 we held services of Holy Communion every other Sunday morning at 11am and The Service of The Word on the alternate Sunday. We also held a service of Holy Communion each Wednesday morning at 10am.

In July 2023 the Temporary Reordering of St Paul's began with the removal of the modern(1970's) chipboard raised dais platform at the centre Crossing. This enabled pews from the West nave to be brought forward to the Crossing and for an area along the south wall of the West nave to be used for refreshments after Wednesday Communion and for the Craft club to meet. Communion now takes place in the Chancel at the brass altar rails.

'Poppin's' Nursery, which runs Monday through to Friday in the Church Hall and Middleton Room, is now well established. They are keen to build links with the church and provide a good source of income.

Hiring of the hall at weekends continues. The church carpark to the west of the St Paul's is fully booked during the week and we have increased the fees to reflect the costs of maintaining and running the business.

### **Safeguarding Report**

A new safeguarding team was appointed in the Parish in early summer 2023, with individual responsibilities for DBS administration (Jonathan Hooker), safeguarding training (Bernice Hitchcock) and overall safeguarding responsibility (Rob Palmer). As a team throughout the course of this year we've been working hard either updating or setting up all the Parish Safeguarding Dashboard and Hub systems so that all the procedures, policies and training checks are in line and so that as a team we can be automatically notified when checks and training are due for renewal.

This has not always been as smooth as we would like and there is still much to do to even be able to sign off the initial basic safeguarding system (level 1 – the minimum requirement) before moving up to level 2. We appreciate your patience in this but would like your concerted help moving forward to prioritise safeguarding and help us to embed a culture which ensures everyone feels safe, secure and confident, both in their role, and able to come forward with any disclosure.

If anyone would like to discuss any safeguarding issues further, please come speak with any of the team.

Rob Palmer

### **Deanery Synod**

Three members of the PCC sit on the Newton Abbot Deanery Synod – but for 2023 we had one vacancy. Deanery Synod provides the PCC with a link with the churches around us, and also with the Diocese as a whole. It also receives reports from the General Synod and Diocesan Synod.

The Rural Dean, is the Rev'd Andrew Down, and we met twice in 2023.

Topics discussed included a talk from Anna Jeffries about the Anna Chaplaincies. A very enlightening and informative evening. There was also a talk by Hillarie Griggs detailing her journey of faith to becoming an LLM. She hoped her talk had been a challenge to us as to what our calling might be personally and for our church.

## **Treasurer's Report**

Total receipts on the unrestricted General Fund were £220,603, and payments from this fund totalled £226,161 giving a deficit of £5,558. The income was boosted by the sale of shares, £10,000, by St Luke's repaying a loan for their organ and by the transfer of the St Barts magazine account which Newton abbot took over for 2023. Without these extra one-off money there would have been a much larger deficit. Times are tight especially with the fuel going up. The income from the Parish Giving Scheme, standing orders, contactless and weekly giving has increased, but not enough to prevent a deficit. However it has been good to see that people are now using contactless giving more. Our contribution to the Diocesan Parish share went up again in 2023 to £87,555. However due to cash flow problems we were unable to pay the last two months amounting to £14,387. Our grateful thanks go to all who contribute financially to the life of the church.

**Budget for 2024:** The PCC have set a budget for 2024 which shows a minimum income required of £206,500, just to pay the ordinary expenses. This does not include any major maintenance or repairs that may occur. The PCC monitors the budget monthly during the year.

**Reserves Policy:** It is PCC policy to try and maintain a balance on unrestricted funds of at least three months expenditure. This is equivalent to approximately £56,000. As of the year end this is being met.

## **PCC Secretary's report**

During the year there has been a consistently high attendance of PCC members at meetings. As a new PCC, we were reminded of the expectations the clergy had of us.

The following is a summary of the matters discussed and agreed by the PCC over the last year.

**Mission:** We agreed to support Barnabas Aid as a mission partner this year, budgeting 2% of our giving for this. Other mission partners will be adopted next year, suggestions welcome. We are monitoring progress on discussions on the Five Key Values which underpin our developing Mission Action Plan.

**Worship and Ministry:** We have agreed to support Jonathan Bealey with an annual book grant for £150 during his ordination training. We wish Gareth well for his sabbatical leave later in the year and have agreed a gift of £250 towards his expenses. After reviewing the changes to the pattern of worship introduced in January 2023, the PCC took the decision to drop Services of the Word at Ogwell and Highweek and revert to weekly services of Holy Communion.

**Fabric:** The PCC has agreed to several large schemes of work to improve our churches: remedial works to lath and plaster at All Saints' and use of a trust fund to pay for architect's drawings and a drainage survey for the new kitchen; new under-pew heating at St Bartholomew's; work to weatherproof the tower at St Bartholomew's; safety work on the trees around St Paul's and the temporary reordering of that church; work on the heating system at Abbotsbury also quotes for work to the windows there.

**Churchyards:** We have agreed to be part of the National Burial Grounds Survey, a national scheme which will digitise memorials and records at no cost to us. As space in our churchyards becomes limited, we are drawing up a protocol of granting of faculties, in consultation with the diocese.

**Finances:** At all our meetings we receive reports from our treasurer and seek to have a balanced budget. The recent letter regarding Parish Giving was a result of our PCC discussions. We thank Clare, and her finance assistant Sue for all their hard work. We support our treasurer in her investigations of historic trusts that could be used for the benefit of the churches. We note that trust funds such as the Wolborough Ecclesiastical Trust will support us in building and maintenance work but cannot be used for day-to-day expenses. We commend the use of the Parish Giving Scheme to parishioners. For financial reasons, we sadly made the decision to make our church cleaners redundant, and thank them for their many years of work on behalf of the churches.

**Safeguarding:** We welcome the appointment of Rob Palmer as safeguarding lead, and Jonathan Hooker and Bernice Hitchcock in their supporting roles. All PCC members are undertaking the necessary training and DBS applications.

**Youth work:** Gareth has taken up an offer to take part in a training programme called Launchpad run by South West Youth Ministry and Youthscape. No cost to the parish, and the team will look the parish as a whole. Gareth will attend five input sessions so that the best options for the parish can be decided.

Wolborough Primary School has become part of an academy. After a zoom meeting with the diocesan registrar, a new arrangement for the building known as The Soup Kitchen have been drawn up with the Exeter Diocesan Trust. This will enable the school to continue its work, the Diocesan Trust to monitor that it is used for educational purposes and frees the benefice from future maintenance and repair costs.

PCC members who have served from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023 until the date this report was approved

### ***Ex Officio***

<b>The Incumbent</b>	The Rev'd Dave Brown	Chair
<b>Team Vicar</b>	The Rev'd Gareth Regan	
<b>Curate</b>	The Rev'd Ben Maynard	
<b>Reader</b>	Mr Keith Butler	
<b>Churchwardens</b>	Mrs Lorna Tresidder (appointed April 2023) Mr Jeremy Howell (resigned due to ill health September 2023) Ms Sharon Lawrence Mr Andrew Faulkner (appointed April 2023, resigned January 2024) Mr Michael Gillibrand (appointed April 2023)	
<b>Deanery Synod Reps</b>	Dr Ian Tresidder (appointed April 2023) Mr Jonathan Bealey (appointed April 2023)	
<b>Elected Members</b>	Ms Barbara Garrick Mr Brian Harding Mr Reg Cross Mrs Samantha Simmons Mrs Morice Kennedy (appointed April 2023) Mr Luke Wilson (appointed April 2023) Mrs Victoria Faulkner (nee Squires) (appointed April 2023) Mr Jonathan Bealey (appointed April 2023)	
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Mrs Clare Lillington	

The following PCC members retired at the APCM in April 2023: Mr David Dunn, Mr Peter Dunster, Mrs Stella Llewellyn, Mrs Gwyn Hughes, Mrs Hilary Howell, Mrs Sandra Dunster, Mrs Rachel Hawkins, Mr Paul Hewson, Mr Ken Purchase, Mrs Diana Fitch, Mrs Margaret Batten.

## **Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parishes of Newton Abbot and Ogwell**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parishes of Newton Abbot and Ogwell for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023.

### ***Responsibilities and basis of report***

As the charity trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

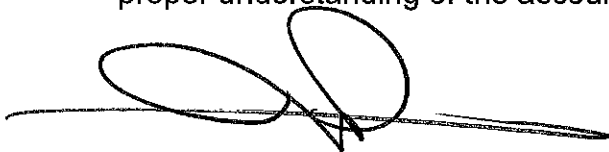
I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

### ***Independent examiner's statement***

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- (1) Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- (2) The accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Ian Barrett FCA FCIE  
Barretts Chartered Accountants and Chartered Tax Advisers  
22 Union Street  
Newton Abbot TQ12 2JS

Dated: 18<sup>th</sup> April 2024

# Newton Abbot Parishes

Registered Charity number: 1172055

Receipts and Payments accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	Total	2022
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Voluntary receipts</b>					
Regular giving- via bank & Parish Giving	40008	0	0	40008	29394
Loose plate collections inc contactless	16551	0	0	16551	9846
Capital funding	40000	0	0	40000	40000
Tax recoverable on Gift Aid	8084	0	0	8084	5528
Legacies	0	0	0	0	10150
VAT refund	0	0	0	0	0
Grant - Parent & Toddler Group	0	500	0	500	7990
Other funds generated	9472	0	0	9472	6445
<b>Income from charitable activities</b>					
Fees for weddings & funerals	13265	0	0	13265	16304
Charity coffee mornings	29	3858	0	3887	2992
Solar panels & telephone mast	6871	0	0	6871	9438
Church hall lettings	15459	0	0	15459	16516
<b>Investments</b>					
Dividends	16919	0	0	16919	16494
Rent from car park	35591	0	0	35591	26705
St Lukes loan repaid	3776	0	0	3776	0
Funds from St Barts magazine account	4578			4578	
Sale of shares	10000	0	0	10000	32084
<b>TOTAL receipts</b>	<b>220603</b>	<b>4358</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>224961</b>	<b>229886</b>

## Payments

### Charitable activities

Missionary socs & Secular charities	561	3582	0	4143	3725
Ministry parish share etc	71668	0	0	71668	82200
Salary - administrator, cleaner & organist	36890	0	0	36890	41062
Working expenses of incumbent	6587	0	0	6587	2365
Church & oragn maintenance & refuse costs	22353	0	0	22353	8995
Upkeep of services (inc new Bibles in 2022)	2928	0	0	2928	12328
Upkeep of churchyard	21906	0	0	21906	8723
Administration	7866	189	0	8055	15913
Light, heat & water	27469	0	0	27469	20986
Insurance	20587	0	0	20587	19202
St Paul's hall maint & gas	3698	0	0	3698	1453
Magaine expenses St Barts	2615	0	0	2615	0
Abbotsbury sound system	0	0	0	0	12397
Accountancy fees incl payroll	1033	0	0	1033	972
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>226161</b>	<b>3771</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>229932</b>	<b>230321</b>

### Period surplus / (deficit)

	-5558	587	0	-4971	-435
Add bank balance at 1st January 2023	19864	20	0	19884	20319
	<b>14306</b>	<b>607</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14913</b>	<b>19884</b>

Closing bank balance at 31st December 2023

	<b>14306</b>	<b>607</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14913</b>	<b>19884</b>
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## Statement of Assets & liabilities for the year ended 31st December 2023

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	Total	2022
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Cash Funds</b>					
Bank current account	13796	607	0	14403	19604
Cash in hand	510	0	0	510	280
	<b>14306</b>	<b>607</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14913</b>	<b>19884</b>
<b>Other monetry Assets</b>					
St Lukes loan	0	0	0	0	3676
<b>Investments Assets</b>					
Held by Exeter Diocesan Board of Finance on our beh	24091	134507	198002	356600	359976
<b>Assets retained for church use</b>					
Fixtures & fittings at cost	47098		0	47098	47098
<b>Liabilities</b>	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>85495</b>	<b>135114</b>	<b>198002</b>	<b>418611</b>	<b>430634</b>

Approved by the PCC on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Rev'd Dave Brown (Chair)

Mrs Clare Lillington (Treasurer)



# Newton Abbot Parishes

Registered Charity number: 1172055

## Statement of Assets & liabilities for the year ended 31st December 2022

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Endowment £	Total £	2021 £
<b>Cash Funds</b>					
Bank current account	19584	20	0	19604	20319
Cash in hand	280	0	0	280	
	<b>19864</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>19884</b>	<b>20319</b>
<b>Other monetary Assets</b>					
St Lukes loan	0	3676	0	3676	3676
<b>Investments Assets</b>					
Held by Exeter Diocesan Board of Finance on our behalf	24117	142662	193197	359976	430569
<b>Assets retained for church use</b>					
Fixtures & fittings at cost	47098		0	47098	47098
<b>Liabilities</b>	0	0	0	0	900
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>91079</b>	<b>146358</b>	<b>193197</b>	<b>430634</b>	<b>500762</b>