

Parochial Church Council of Great Marsden St John the Evangelist with Nelson St Philip 2023 Report and Accounts



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PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF GREAT MARSDEN ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST WITH NELSON ST PHILIP

Trustees Annual Report for the Parochial Church Council of Parochial Church Council of Great Marsden St John the Evangelist with Nelson St Philip

Administrative information

St John's Church Centre is situated on Barkerhouse Road, Nelson BB9 9EY and the St Philips Centre is on Leeds Road, Nelson, BB9 9XB. The parish is part of the Diocese of Blackburn within the Church of England. The correspondence address is the Church Office, St John's Church, Barkerhouse Road, Nelson, BB9 9EY. The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2011) and is registered with the charity commission, registration number 1176541.

Aims and Purposes

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is responsible for cooperating with the Incumbent, the Revd Lorelli Hilliard, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also responsible for the maintenance and insurance of St John's Church Centre. Blackburn Diocesan Board of Finance Limited presently pay for the insurance and main upkeep of St Philip's Centre on behalf of the PCC.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship in our parish and to become part of our parish community. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many different groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and Scripture, music and sacrament. St John with St Philip Church exists to transform our community in Nelson through changed lives. We seek to do this through helping people to get to know God, to discover the calling of Jesus and to experience the transforming power of the Holy Spirit.

We have services accessible to all and seek to be a resource for the community.

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

In particular, we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer; learning about the gospel; developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish
- Mission and outreach work.
- Support for those in immediate need, especially through the community café, foodbank and drop-in services at St Philip's.

Achievements and performance

Worship and prayer

The PCC is keen to offer a range of services that our community finds both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling. Weekly activities at St John's Church Centre include our Sunday service, youth group and Sticky Fingers pre-school group. We also have a monthly Messy Church and monthly Asian service.

From St Philips Centre we operate our foodbank, community café and the Lighthouse Gathering, which is for those battered and bruised by the storms of life, meeting on Monday evenings for a meal followed by a service.

All are welcome to attend our regular services which are held at St John's Church Centre. At present there are 65 parishioners on the church electoral roll, 20 of whom are not resident within the parish. The average weekly attendance was 41 but this number increased at during Easter and Christmas, as well as for any special services throughout the church year.

As well as our regular services, we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. Through baptism we thank God for the gift of life; in marriage, public vows are exchanged with

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God's blessing; through funeral services friends and family express their grief and give thanks for the life that is now complete in this world and commend the person into God's keeping. We conducted, two baptisms and seven funerals.

Deanery Synod

Currently there are 2 PCC members who sit on the Deanery Synod which provides an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the Church.

The St John's Church Centre complex

2023 was a challenging year. We moved out of our very smelly and soggy St John's in January and installed ourselves in St Philip's Centre. We had to negotiate with the Romanian Church that meet there to carve out space for our morning service and for Messy Church and our Asian service held on Sunday afternoons. A single drier was put into St John's and more promised. We waited...and waited...and waited... After complaining, another drying company was appointed and driers were put in on Good Friday. We waited... We were told in June that the floors were still damp. They didn't seem damp. We queried it. An expert was called in. The drying company had been using the wrong instruments to test the floors! All in all, there were numerous meetings with builders, electricians, surveyors and the loss adjustor throughout the year. Finally, the contractor started the reinstatement work in September which lasted around 10 weeks. Then the flooring contractor began work. Before and after that there was a massive operation to move furniture and stuff out of the way and back again. That was followed by some additional painting of church that we paid for and painting of the ladies' toilet that we did ourselves and a lot of snagging.

The PCC held six meetings throughout the year including several special ones to agree one or two items. Key resolutions made by the PCC were:

- We agreed tree works and some felling in the churchyard as required by the Council to enable them to consider taking over the churchyard maintenance
- We agreed to replace the remaining lights with LED ones including upstairs and fit better security lights.
- We appointed Nigel Russell as Health and Safety Officer.
- We agreed to employ the decorator appointed by the insurance company to paint the church sanctuary.
- We agreed to submit another application to the Diocesan Vision Fund for part time staff for St Philip's and for a part time Families Minister.

Pastoral care

The vicar, aided by the pastoral visiting team, continued to visit and give communion to some members of our parish who are unable to attend church due to sickness or age.

Mission and evangelism

We have been through a lean year regarding our provision for children. Many families left during Covid and did not return. We offered craft work at the back of church each Sunday (thanks Rebecca and Julie). We were not happy that we couldn't offer more but we did not have the leaders or enough children. PCC and the church leadership are determined that this will change and a kid's service will be launched in July 2024 at first once a month but more frequently as we recruit leaders.

Messy Church continued at St Philip's. The space was not as good and the lack of parking didn't help. Numbers dropped during the year. We moved to a breakfast + Messy Church on a Sunday morning when we arrived back in St John's in December as an experiment.

Youth group continued throughout the year. We had fun placing games at St Philip's – and dislodging the odd tile!!! We did a canal walk with a meal enroute and had an outing to laser quest followed by McDonald's. In July we took four of the group to DTI a Christian youth camp.

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We have just received confirmation that The Diocese have accepted our third application to the Vision Fund made this year (2024) for a Families Minister. We are hoping to be able to advertise in July.

Sticky Fingers toddler group meets on Wednesday mornings for babies, toddlers, pre-schoolers and their carers. The ethos of our group is to reach out to families with the love of Jesus. Carers can bring their little ones in the certain knowledge that everyone is accepted and valued. We don't usually have a Bible story or sing overtly Christian songs apart from Christmas, Easter and other appropriate festivals, but we seek to reach people who would normally run a mile from anything like this with love, acceptance, lots of fun activities and for the adults, a welcoming coffee, a listening ear and if necessary, a shoulder to cry on. We offer to pray with/for people and sometimes we get requests for prayer, and we help practically as well, offering lifts, referring to food bank or giving gifts of children's clothes.

Lighthouse has been busy. We have a small team, that do a lot, and this is made up of people from our Church, volunteers from other churches and also a couple of people who are from the community. We are always in need of people to help, and at the moment we need someone to take a lead on the cooking of food.

The volunteers give up their time to serve others and share God's love for them in action as well as words. We provide a meal for on average 35 people who attend weekly, and who come for different reasons, including for social interaction, financial support, mental health issues and homelessness. Everybody is welcome. The meal is followed by a short service where we worship, share the Gospel in a simple but effective way, and pray together. In December we had our Christmas meal to which we invited Bishop Philip; this enabled him to see what we do as well as talk to people there. We were also joined by Inspire's *Building Recovery in Community Choir* who gave up their time to provide entertainment.

Ecumenical relationships

The vicar meets regularly with leaders of other local churches to pray.

Financial review

Total receipts on unrestricted funds (including designated receipts) were £74,756 (2022 £42,993). Of the undesignated receipts, £18,189 (2022 £22,340) was unrestricted voluntary donations and associated Gift Aid, the remaining income included room hire, income from church activities and some investment income. Designated receipts from voluntary donations were £27,737, mainly a legacy of £27,637. Planned giving and collections at church services decreased during the year (Note 3a). The PCC remains grateful to all those who give support to the work here in the parish.

Total payments on unrestricted funds (including designated funds) were £63,372 (2022 £39,372) to provide the Christian ministry from the parish. Unrestricted receipts in the year were £11,384 more than payments, due in part to a the receipt of a legacy of £27,637 for which we are grateful.

£18,000 (2022 £15,000) was needed to provide the Christian ministry from our parish through the parish share that largely provides the stipends and housing for the clergy across the diocese with contributions for each parish based on a formula that tries to reflect whether or not the parish has a full-time incumbent, the size of the regular worshipping congregation and the relative deprivation in the parish. The PCC was grateful that our calculated parish share of £55,504 was offset by a grant of £20,908 from the Church of England's Lower Income Communities Fund because the Church ministers in a deprived area and of £11,684 from the Diocesan Board of Finance as transitional relief as we work towards paying our full requested share.

Reserves policy

It is PCC policy to try to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds that equates to at least three months' unrestricted payments. Excluding the payments made for the heating system this would have been equivalent to £16,000, which is needed to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet emergencies. The cash balance of

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£51,553 held on unrestricted funds at the year-end was above this level but further expenditure necessary on the buildings will return the reserves to an appropriate level.

Volunteers

We would like to thank all the volunteers who work so hard to make our church the lively and vibrant community it is. In particular, we want to mention our churchwardens Julie Haynes and Saleem Gill who have worked so tirelessly on our behalf, and all the support our Treasurer has given to the PCC.

Structure, governance and management

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent, churchwardens, Church Army Evangelist, Authorised Lay Minister, Deanery Synod Representatives and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish, including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. New members receive initial training in the workings of the PCC.

There were six PCC meetings throughout the year including several special ones to agree one or two items.

PCC members who have served at any time from 1 January 2023 until the date this report was approved are:

Name	Role	Rules of membership	end of term
Lorelli Hilliard	Vicar	ex-officio	-
Lesley Wright	Licensed Lay Minister (LLM)	ex-officio	-
Christine Price	Deanery synod	ex-officio	May-23
Janet Laycock	Deanery synod	ex-officio	May-23
Pauline Ashworth	Church Warden	ex-officio	May-23
Saleem Gill	Church Warden	ex-officio	May-23
Anthony May	PCC Secretary	Elected member	May-24
Des Murphy	Deputy Warden	Elected member	May-25
Babu Muzaffar	Deputy Warden	Elected member	May-23
Dilwyn Nicholas		Elected member	May-24
Rita White		Elected member	May-24
Sheila Spencer		Elected member	May-25
Helen Spencer	Treasurer	co-opted	May-24
Andrea McLoughlin	Authorised Lay Minister (ALM) & Evangelist in Training	co-opted	May-24

Approved by the PCC on 1 Oct 2025 and signed on their behalf by the Reverend Lorelli Hilliard as PCC Chair.

.....
Revd L Hilliard
PCC Chair

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Independent Examiners' Report

Independent Examiner's Report to the members/trustees of the Parochial Church Council of Freedom Church Mereside.

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023 which are set out on pages 8 to 13.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

As trustees of the charity, the members of the PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention

1. which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; or
- to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records 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.



Stephanie Rankin FCA
Ribble Accounting Services Limited
56 Broadgate
Preston
PR1 8DU
12 September 2025

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF GREAT MARSDEN ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST WITH NELSON ST PHILIP

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

For the year ended 31 December 2023

			2023				2022
			Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total	Total
		Notes	£	£	£	£	£
Receipts							
	Donations and legacies	3a	18,189	27,737	49,303	95,229	55,935
	Church activities	3b	1,863	-	5,420	7,283	10,217
	Other trading activities	3c	471	-	-	471	665
	Investments	3d	8	10,717	-	10,725	10,512
	Other income	3e	-	15,772	-	15,772	-
Total Receipts			20,531	54,225	54,723	129,479	77,329
Payments							
Expenditure on charitable activities							
	Ministry costs	4a	21,874	-	1,402	23,276	20,890
	Church activities	4b	562	-	35,426	35,989	26,590
	Premises costs	4c	16,385	13,376	5,564	35,325	11,146
	Administration	4d	3,246	6,712	-	9,958	6,257
			42,067	20,088	42,392	104,548	64,883
	Other expenditure	4e	1,217	-	-	1,217	-
Total Payments			43,284	20,088	42,392	105,764	64,883
Surplus/(Shortfall) for the year			-22,754	34,137	12,332	23,716	12,446
Transfers:			18,871	-18,871	-	-	-
Surplus/(Shortfall) for the year after transfers			-3,883	15,266	12,332	23,716	12,446
Cash/bank reserves bfwd			3,882	36,286	24,528	64,696	52,250
Cash/bank reserves cfwd			£-	£51,552	£36,860	£88,412	£64,696

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STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

As at 31 December 2023

	2023			2022		
	Unrestricted	Restricted	2023 Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	2022 Total
Cash and bank balances						
Unity Bank T1 Current A/c	28,018	36,860	64,878	-	-	-
Unity Bank Savings A/c	1,908	-	1,908	-	-	-
Barclays current A/c	-	-	-	18,466	24,528	43,025
Marsden BS A/c	11,109	-	11,109	10,909	-	10,909
CBF deposit A/c CB3001797	9,600	-	9,600	9,302	-	9,302
CBF deposit A/c CB3002156	487	-	487	487	-	487
Cash in hand	431	-	431	974	-	974
Total	E £51,553	£36,860	£88,413	£3,882	£24,528	£64,696

The unrestricted funds comprise both general funds and those designated by the PCC which can be re-designated as the PCC desire or require. A breakdown showing the split between designated and undesignated is shown in Note 3.

Property

18 Helmsdale Road	43,000	-	43,000	43,000	-	43,000
8 Dundonnell Road	48,500	-	48,500	48,500	-	48,500
F	£91,500	£-	£91,500	£91,500	£-	£91,500

The two properties were designated to the Mission and Ministry Fund but, as designated funds, these could be undesignated if the PCC wish. A breakdown showing the split between designated and undesignated is shown in Note 3

The notes on pages 10 to 13 form an integral part of these accounts.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. Accounting Policies

a. Basis of preparation

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis.

b. Funds

Unrestricted funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also not restricted.

Restricted funds are income funds that must be spent on restricted purposes and details of the funds held and restrictions provided are shown in note 2 below.

Designated funds are those that have not been restricted by the donor, but which the PCC has subsequently earmarked for a particular use. Details of the designations are set out in note 2 below. A legacy of £27,637 was received in the year and this was designated to the Mission and Ministry fund.

As the general fund had a negative balance on 31 December 2023 it has been necessary to transfer £18,871 from the designated Mission and Ministry Fund to the General Fund to cover mission and ministry costs paid out from the unrestricted funds (e.g. Parish share, heat light and insurance). The balance on the unrestricted fund on 31 December 2023 was "£nil and the designated cash funds on 31 December 2023 were still £51,552.

In addition to the cash balance of £51,522 included as designated funds, the parish also has two properties which were last valued at £91,500 and which have also been designated to Mission and Ministry. These could also be undesignated if the PCC decides or requires.

The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of the church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONTINUED

For the year ended 31 December 2023

2. Movement in funds during the year

The movements in the different funds can be summarised as follows:

		1 Jan 2023	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	31 Dec 2023
CASH FUNDS						
Designated - Cash and bank						
Insurance Claim		-	15,772	-12,796	-	2,976
Mission & Ministry		32,525	38,353	-7,292	-18,871	44,715
Vicar's Discretionary		3,761	100	-	-	3,861
A		36,286	54,225	-20,088	-18,871	51,552
General Fund	B	3,882	20,531	-43,284	18,871	-
Total Unrestricted Funds (A + B)	C	40,168	74,756	-63,372	-	51,552
Restricted - Cash and Bank						
Charities		247	181	-178	-	250
Dishwasher		416	-	-	-	416
Fees		1,020	1,235	-1,020	-	1,235
Field Project		2,500	-	-	-	2,500
Food Bank		1,069	652	-217	-	1,504
Kitchen		792	-	-	-	792
Lighthouse		1,751	150	-230	-	1,671
Messy Church		426	-	-49	-	377
Minibus		1,465	372	-1,733	-	104
Scargill		-471	3,011	-2,540	-	-
Shower		500	-	-	-	500
St Philips Centre		6,910	49,122	-30,523	-	25,509
Youth Worker		2,000	-	-	-	2,000
Boiler		5,564	-	-5,564	-	-
Café Hope		7	-	-7	-	-
Mission & Ministry		332	-	-332	-	-
Total Restricted Funds (A + B)	D	24,528	54,723	-42,393	£-	36,858
Total Cash/bank balances (C + D)	E	£64,696	£129,479	-£105,765	£-	£88,410
Designated - Properties						
18 Helmsdale Road		43,000	-	-	-	43,000
8 Dundonnell Road		48,500	-	-	-	48,500
Sub-totals	F	£91,500	£-	£-	£-	£91,500

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF GREAT MARSDEN ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST WITH NELSON ST PHILIP

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONTINUED

For the year ended 31 December 2023

3. Further Analysis of Receipts

	2023			2022	
	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
3a Donations and legacies					
Planned Giving	10,491	-	-	10,491	14,050
Other giving in services	4,565	-	-	4,565	5,302
Donations	300	100	3,670	4,070	6,341
Tax refund	-	-	-	-	2,955
Legacies	-	27,637	-	27,637	-
Grants	2,834	-	-	2,834	1,787
Grants - St Philips	-	-	45,633	45,633	25,500
Donations and legacies	18,189	27,737	49,303	95,229	55,935
3b Church activities					
Fees	-	-	1,235	1,235	2,562
Church/Hal lettings	1,610	-	-	1,610	4,986
Income from church activities	253	-	4,185	4,438	2,669
Income from charitable activities	1,863	-	5,420	7,283	10,217
3c Other trading activities					
Fundraising	471	-	-	471	665
Other trading activities	471	-	-	471	665
3d Investments					
Interest	8	517	-	525	312
Rent from investment properties	-	10,200	-	10,200	10,200
Investments	8	10,717	-	10,725	10,512
3e Other income					
Other income	-	15,772	-	15,772	-
Other income	-	15,772	-	15,772	-
Total Receipts	£20,531	£54,225	£54,723	£129,479	£77,329

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF GREAT MARSDEN ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST WITH NELSON ST PHILIP

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONTINUED

For the year ended 31 December 2023

4. Further Analysis of Payments

		2023			2022 Total
		Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total
		£	£	£	£
4a	Ministry costs				
	Charity donations	-	-	178	178
	Parish Share	18,000	-	-	18,000
	DBF Fees paid over	-	-	1,020	1,020
	Clergy housing	3,607	-	-	3,607
	Services	267	-	204	471
	Ministry costs	21,874	-	1,402	23,276
4b	Church activities				
	Church groups - Youth and Children	241	-	70	310
	Church groups - Other	-	-	426	426
	Church activity costs	-	-	2,668	2,668
	Refreshments	321	-	7	328
	Minibus	-	-	1,733	1,733
	St Philips	-	-	30,523	30,523
	Church activities	562	-	35,426	35,989
4c	Premises costs				
	Insurance	1,060	-	-	1,060
	Minor repairs, upkeep, and maintenance	6,634	-	-	6,634
	Utilities	6,797	-	-	6,797
	Major repairs	1,894	-	5,564	7,458
	Insurance claim expenditure	-	12,796	-	12,796
	Upkeep of investment properties	-	580	-	580
	Premises costs	16,385	13,376	5,564	35,325
4d	Administration				
	Administrator salary	-	6,712	-	6,712
	Parish Office	2,685	-	-	2,685
	Governance	561	-	-	561
	Administration	3,246	6,712	-	9,958
4e	Other expenditure				
	Other Expenditure	1,217	-	-	1,217
	Other expenditure	1,217	-	-	-
Total Expenditure		£43,284	£20,088	£42,392	£105,764
					£64,883