



Bishop Auckland Parish

St Andrew's + St Anne's

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF BISHOP AUCKLAND

REGISTERD CHARITY NUMBER 1180703

ANNUAL TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR 2023

Aims and Purposes

Bishop Auckland Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, Revd Matthew Keddlily, 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 of St Andrew's Church, South Church and St Anne's Church, Market Place, Bishop Auckland.

Objectives and Activities

When planning our activities for the year the incumbent and the PCC attach great importance to public benefit, and 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 and developing their trust in Jesus
- provision of pastoral care and practical support for people living in the parish
- missionary and outreach work

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship in our two churches and to become part of our parish community. Our services and worship are based around prayer, Bible reading, preaching, music and sacrament.

PCC members also provide input into the parish Mission Action Plan as they consider how we can best serve our church members, local community and the wider world through our services and activities.

Achievements and Performance

Worship and Prayer

The PCC are keen to offer a range of services during the week and over the course of the year which our community find both beneficial (including for those who are socially isolated) and spiritually fulfilling. We try to provide a range of services: from a traditional Holy Communion service (liturgically led and with traditional hymns) in St Andrew's each Sunday morning; a quieter Holy Communion service in St Anne's each Thursday; and our contemporary Sunday Gathering service (of an inter-generational and interactive style, with contemporary music) from St Anne's.

All are welcome to attend our regular services. In 2023 our parish worshipping community consisted of 107 people (21 children aged 0-10, 6 young people aged 11-17, 50 adults aged 18-69 and 30 adults aged 70+).

After the last revision of the Electoral Roll in April 2023 there were 81 people on the Church Electoral Roll.

As well as our regular services, we enable our local community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life and offer appropriate pastoral support. In 2023, 29 baptisms, 11 weddings (with two additional services of prayer & dedication after Civil Marriage) and 35 funerals (of which 4 were conducted at a crematorium or cemetery) took place in our parish. On 5th October we held a service for All Souls in St Anne's Church for the relatives of those whose funerals had been conducted in the parish during the past year so that they could light a candle, listen to a short reflection and remember their loved ones.

Work with Children, Youth & Families

During 2023 our work with children, young people and families expanded with the appointment of our Growing Faith Mission Leader to work with 5-11s throughout the parish, to work alongside our refocussed Early Years Mission Leader. We undertook our weekly, term-time, activities of: *Blessed Beginnings* (our group for babies and toddlers and their parents / carers); *Kingdom Kids* (our group for 5-11s and their families); and, *Youth Group* (for young people aged 11 -18 years). During school holidays we ran a range of activities including a free family film club (with a hot meal included) and *Stay 'n' Play* sessions.

We continue supporting local primary schools by delivering a programme of weekly assemblies and RE lessons. We also worked with local primary schools to produce a large colourful display in St Anne's during the weekend of the Food Festival and a similar display of paper baubles at the Christmas Tree Festival in St Anne's which coincided with the town's Christmas Lights Switch-On. On both occasions many families came into church to see what their children had made in school. We also held our Christingle service in St Andrew's Church.

Ministry to the Elderly

Lay pastoral visitors visit twelve parishioners once a month and spend time talking, listening and giving communion to these people, who have been regular long-term church worshippers but who are no longer able to come to church. The pastoral visitors also visit anyone who has been in hospital and needs time to recuperate before returning to church. Those receiving visits all say how much they enjoy them, and that they feel better afterwards.

Town Events

Once again, the Bishop Auckland Food Festival took place in April and St Anne's Church was open throughout the weekend providing refreshments and toilet facilities as well as a place for children to play. To celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III we held a afternoon tea. On Remembrance Sunday, the church and various members, led the town's Civic Parade at the memorial, followed by a service in St Anne's Church. After opening for the weekend of Bishop Auckland Christmas Town with a Christmas Tree festival in St Anne's Church, on the Saturday before Christmas, we held a carol service in the Market Place.

Helping people in need

Our Connections group (formally Warm Hub) continued throughout 2023. It is open from 10:30am to 1:30pm each Wednesday. A warm drink and biscuits are offered on arrival with a simple lunch being served from noon. Newspapers, puzzles and crafts are available, and there is always someone around with whom to chat.

We continue to support our local food bank (part of a crisis intervention project based in Woodhouse Close Church Community Centre) through donations of food and hygiene products, in addition to financial assistance.

Throughout the year we have given to other registered charities in this country and overseas. These currently include Christians against Poverty, Compassion UK (through whom we sponsor a little boy in Kenya), The Message Trust, Medaille Trust, Mercy Ships and Prison Fellowship.

We have also supported local families by holding a baby clothing event and a school uniform event with items of clothing available free of charge or for a small donation. Grants of £1000 and donations from the community were used to purchase school uniform. We also keep a supply of used children's clothes to offer to anyone who asks us for them.

When deciding which charities to support and for how long, the parish Global Mission Committee will bear in mind some of the stated priorities of the Diocese, namely poverty, children and the environment. We also continue to provide practical assistance to individuals who approach the church directly for help and where necessary we signpost them to the appropriate agencies when longer term support is required. In our care for the wider world, we seek where possible to use Fairtrade and environmentally friendly products.

We have also continued to help displaced Ukrainian families with clothes and given practical help and support to help them with their new life in our town. We held a Service of Prayer for Ukraine to mark the first anniversary of the invasion.

Ecumenical Involvement

Bishop Auckland Parish is a member of the Bishop Auckland Fellowship of Christian Churches (BAFCC), a grouping of local churches from various Christian denominations. BAFCC events in which the Bishop Auckland Parish were involved included the weekly Lent lunches and the 'Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity'.

Parish Website and Facebook Page

Information about safeguarding and contact details for the parish are available on our website (www.baparish.church), and our Facebook page ([Bishop Auckland Parish](#)) is regularly updated.

Buildings

To facilitate our work, it is important that we maintain the fabric of the churches of St Andrew (Grade I listed) and St Anne (Grade 2) and ensure that all equipment is serviced and inspected as necessary.

A programme of building works is being developed to provide St Anne's Church with more appropriate facilities needed to serve the local community. The south roof of St Anne's Church is in need of repair / replacement and we are currently looking into the possibility of installing solar panels or slates. A consultancy project to provide options for passive and active energy measures in St Anne's Church, jointly funded by the PCC, Heritage England and Durham County Council was concluded during the year.

During 2023, St Andrew's Church work to upgrade lighting and AV equipment has continued.

Hire of Church Premises

St Anne's Church has a number of spaces available for hire at reasonable rates, subject to the completion of a hire agreement which includes compliance with health and safety and safeguarding regulations.

Financial Review

In 2023 total receipts into unrestricted funds were £72,824: unrestricted voluntary donations amounted to £59,474, of which £9,183 was claimed as Gift Aid. Receipts from church activities, principally fees for weddings and funerals, contributed £7,843.

Of receipts into restricted funds of £28,949, grants accounted for £11,530. Most of these grants were for the building consultancy project at St Anne's Church.

Regular giving was up slightly on the previous year again (£36,440 - up from £35,876 in 2022).

At £101,774, total Parish receipts were higher than the £90,586 received in 2022, due mainly to a increases in donations and fees for our activities.

A total of £86,543 was spent from unrestricted funds to provide the Christian ministry from Bishop Auckland Parish, including the contribution of a Diocesan Parish Share of £31,241, (£3,759 less than in 2022). Other major costs were in respect of insurance, utilities, and buildings maintenance.

Payments from restricted funds amounted to £57,212; much of the youth and children's work was funded by grants from the Scotto Trust, with a significant additional proportion coming from Parish reserves in the form of the St Anne's Old School Fund, which is available for application for educational purposes.

Total payments in the year were £143,755, down slightly from the £148,325 in 2022.

The net result for the year was an excess of payments over receipts of £41,981 overall.

Based on the bank and deposit balances brought forward at the beginning of the year, the balances carried forward at 31 December 2022 thus amounted to £92,454 of unrestricted funds and £63,654 of restricted funds, that is, £156,108 in total.

The PCC wishes to thank Sarah Cummings (Associate of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales) for carrying out the role of Independent Examiner of the accounts.

Reserves policy

It is PCC policy to maintain a sufficient balance from unrestricted funds in its current account to cover day to day running expenses and to cover emergency situations that may arise from time to time.

It is our policy to invest our funds with the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund.

Staff Team in post in 2023:

Vicar - Revd Matthew Keddilty

Children & Families' Mission Leader for 0 - 11s/Early Years Mission Leader – Mrs Alison Keddilty

Parish Administrator – Mrs Angela MacDonald (to 31 July 2023); Mrs Jenny Laycock (from 17 October 2023)

Growing Faith Mission Leader – Rev Brett Vallis (from 5 September 2023)

Volunteers

All our volunteers have been safely recruited and undergone appropriate training.

Safeguarding

Mrs Ruth Riddell (from 21 May 2023) Representative to Deanery Synod

Mr Martin Wood Representative to Deanery Synod and Diocesan Synod

Elected Members:

Mr Anthony Coulls

Mrs Joanne Green (from 21 May 2023)

Miss Ruth Keddilty (from 21 May 2023)

Mr David Riddell (from 21 May 2023) Representative to Deanery Synod

Mr John Waine

Mrs Marilyn Weerasinghe (until 21 May 2023)

Mrs Rachel Wood (from 21 May 2023)

Co-opted Members:

None

This report and associated accounts were presented to the APCM of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Bishop Auckland on 21 May 2023.

Signed *Revd Matt Keddilty*

Vicar of Bishop Auckland
(PCC Chairman)

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Bishop Auckland

I report on the accounts of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Bishop Auckland for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are set out the attached pages.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As trustees of the charity the members of the Parochial Church Council are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The members 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;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act); and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

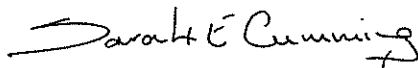
My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from 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 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 next statement.

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 which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

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



Sarah E Cumming

Associate of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

23 Beech Grove, SALE, M33 6RT

9 May 2024

Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2023 £	TOTAL 2022 £
RECEIPTS					
Voluntary Receipts:					
Planned Giving	7	32,240	4,200	36,440	35,876
Collections at Services		9,847	-	9,847	8,446
Other voluntary giving		7,705	4,139	11,843	3,704
Gift Aid and GASDS Recovered		9,183	1,520	10,703	10,688
Legacies		500	-	500	1,500
Grants		-	11,530	11,530	18,889
		59,474	21,389	80,863	79,103
				-	
Activities for Generating Funds		-	-	-	-
Investment Income		4,462	2,169	6,631	1,947
Church Activities	5a	7,843	5,392	13,236	8,956
Any other income		1,045	-	1,045	580
TOTAL RECEIPTS		72,824	28,949	101,774	90,586
PAYMENTS					
Church Activities:					
Diocesan Parish Share Contribution		31,241	-	31,241	35,000
Salaries & Honoraria		6,331	32,095	38,426	37,909
Clergy & Staff Expenses	9	959	-	959	1,732
Mission & Evangelism		2,668	7,901	10,568	21,410
Mission Giving & Donations	5b	2,402	-	2,402	4,921
		43,601	39,995	83,597	100,972
Church Running Expenses:					
Insurances		10,943	-	10,943	10,463
Church Maintenance		1,993	1,570	3,563	11,499
Administration Costs		4,843	62	4,906	6,821
Utilities		17,582	3,186	20,768	8,984
Other Church running expenses	5c	7,332	636	7,968	7,846
Major Church Repairs & Maintenance		-	11,762	11,762	-
Costs of trading		-	-	-	-
		42,694	17,217	59,910	45,613
Costs of Generating Funds		248	-	248	31
Other Payments		-	-	-	1,709
TOTAL PAYMENTS		86,543	57,212	143,755	148,325
EXCESS OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS		(13,718)	(28,262)	(41,981)	(57,739)
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Adjustment to closing balance		(363)	-	(363)	8,480
Prior year adjustment		-	-	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(14,081)	(28,262)	(42,344)	(49,259)
Cash in hand & Bank Balances at 1st Jan		106,535	91,917	198,452	247,711
Cash in hand & Bank Balances at 31st Dec		92,454	63,654	156,108	198,452

STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES AT 31 DECEMBER

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2023 £	TOTAL 2022 £
Cash Funds					
Cash in hand and bank current account		2,952	5,061	8,014	18,941
HSBC Deposit accounts		-	-	-	5,791
C.B.F. Deposit Funds		-	58,593	58,593	73,624
C.B.F. Trust Fund (Lightfoot Institute)		89,502	-	89,502	100,097
		92,454	63,654	156,108	198,453
Other Monetary Assets					
Debtors		898	1,799	2,698	160
Gift Aid Recoverable		9,183	1,520	10,703	10,500
Assets retained for Church Use	2	-	-	-	-
Liabilities					
Creditors		-	-	-	1,045

NOTES

1. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payment basis.
2. Non-monetary assets retained for church use but not valued for the Statement of Assets and Liabilities include fixtures & fittings and AV & office equipment.
3. The movement in restricted funds during the year were as below:

	Bal B/fwd.	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	Bal C/fwd.
Restricted					
St Anne's Restoration Fund	68	2		-	70
St Anne's Old School Fund	73,139	2,087	-	(17,133)	58,093
Lord Crewe's Charity for Relief in Need	8,770	530	530	(1,506)	7,264
Durham County Council Bishop Auckland Heritage Action Zone	2,867	66	1,762	-	1,171
Youth & Children	6,656	3,959	31,603	17,133	(3,854)
The Friends of St Anne	416	13	-	-	430
Parish Administrator Fund	-	5,250	5,250	-	-
Heating Charges	-	3,186	3,186	-	-
Audio-Visual Equipment	-	1,330	1,330	-	-
Organ Maintenance	-	240	240	-	-
St Andrew's Bells	-	400	-	-	400.00
Relief-in-Need	-	1,636	3,142	1,506	-
Accounting Software	-	93	62		31
Flowers	-	50	-	-	50
Bookstall	-	636	636	-	-
	91,917	19,479	47,742	(0.00)	63,654
Unrestricted					
Lightfoot Institute	100,097	4,405	-	(15,000)	89,502

NOTES (Cont.)

St Anne's Restoration Fund is for the restoration of St Anne's Church.

St Anne's Old School Fund is for educational purposes. £17,133 was used for youth and children's work.

Lord Crewe's Charity for Relief in Need is to be used for Relief in Need purposes. £1,506 was used for social action on poverty.

Durham County Council Bishop Auckland Heritage Action Zone provided a grant towards roofing works for St Anne's Church.

£15,000 was withdrawn from the Lightfoot unrestricted trust fund (held by the Diocese of Durham as a Custodian Trustee)

4. The PCC holds funds deposited on behalf of others with no control over the management of these funds. The movements in funds held by the Parish during the year are set out below:

Funds held as agent	Bal B/fwd.	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	Bal C/fwd.
(for) St Peter's Chapel, Auckland Castle	2,605	59	188	-	2,476
Donations from third parties to charities	358	329	494	-	194
Fees and other payments to third parties	-	7,547	6,720	-	827

Donations from third parties to charities contains monies collected during services for other charities and organisations.

NOTES (Cont.)

5. Further Analysis of Receipts and Payments

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2023 £	TOTAL 2022 £
Receipts				
a. Church activities				
Fees for weddings and funerals	7,283	4,756	12,039	8,416
<i>Trading activities:</i>				
<i>Bookstall commission</i>	-	-	-	55
<i>Bookstall</i>	-	636	-	68
<i>Clothes recycling</i>	-	-	-	125
<i>Scrap metal</i>	-	-	-	68
Total receipts from trading activities	560	636	1,196	540
	7,843	5,392	13,236	8,956
Payments				
b. Mission giving and donations				
Albania Conference Travel	-	-	-	250
ANAZAO	-	-	-	500
Children's Society	-	-	-	200
Christians Against Poverty	300	-	300	300
Christian Aid - Turkey & Syria Earthquake	250	-	250	
Compassion UK	352	-	352	336
Medaille Trust	300	-	300	300
Mercy Ships UK	300	-	300	300
The Message Trust	300	-	300	300
Prison Fellowship	300	-	300	300
Spark Ministries	-	-	-	250
Tearfund (Pakistan Flood Relief)	-	-	-	500
United Society (for Ukraine)	-	-	-	1,085
Woodhouse Close Community Centre	300	-	300	300
	2,402	-	2,402	4,921
c. Other church running expenses				
Vicarage(s) expenditure (water)	2,052	-	2,052	1,176
Church cleaning	1,187	-	1,187	1,040
Upkeep of services	930	-	930	762
Upkeep of churchyard	840	-	840	840
Governance costs	661	-	661	893
Ministry Experience Volunteer housing costs	-	-	-	3,049
Warm Hub/Connections	-	-	-	86
Church alarms (not itemized in 2022 Financial Statement)	1,661	-	1,661	
Bookstall	-	636	636	-
	7,332	636	7,968	7,846

NOTES (Cont.)

6. During 2023 spouse to PCC Chair was remunerated for employment as Children & Families' Mission Leader (£16,788) plus travel expenses.
7. Verger fees have been donated to PCC funds on request of the current post holder.
8. Some planned giving is restricted to the Parish Administrator salary.
9. The Independent Examiner fee (for 2022 accounts) was donated to Woodhouse Close Food Bank.
10. No Trustees received any remuneration for services as a Trustee.