



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 2024

Aims and Purposes

Bishop Auckland Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, Revd Matthew Keddily, 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 every person 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 2024 our parish worshipping community consisted of 124 people (31 children aged 0-10, 10 young people aged 11-17, 53 adults aged 18-69 and 30 adults aged 70+).

In 2025, we have prepared an entirely new Electoral Roll, as per the due process. There are now 64 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 2024, 21 baptisms, 2 weddings and 27 funerals (of which 10 were conducted at a crematorium or cemetery) took place in our parish. On 3rd November 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 2024 our work with children, young people and families expanded following the recent 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 also employed a Blessed Beginnings Sessional Worker to cover a long-term sickness absence. 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 decorations at the Christmas Tree Festival in St Anne's which coincided with the town's Christmas Market. 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 house-bound parishioners 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. 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; and on D-Day led local civic proceedings to mark the 80th anniversary. 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 appointment of a Community Mission Leader increased our capacity to support individuals within and without our church family, allowing us to respond to the needs of the community, facilitate regular social events.

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 second 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.

During 2024, works were carried out to restore the Bells at St Andrew's Church, and a special service of rededication of the bells and a blessing of the new bell roles was also held on 28th April 2024.

In 2024, St Andrew's Church celebrated its 750th birthday. Various celebratory events were held throughout the year including four scheduled concerts featuring a number of Choirs and the Durham Constabulary Brass Band, plus a special service on St Andrews day.

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 2024 total receipts into unrestricted funds were £61,545: unrestricted voluntary donations amounted to £53,796, of which £9,310 was claimed as Gift Aid. Receipts from church activities, principally fees for weddings and funerals, contributed £4,279.

Of receipts into restricted funds of £46,317, grants accounted for £23,742. Most of these grants were for the staff costs.

Regular giving was up slightly on the previous year again (£36,591 - up from £36,440 in 2023).

At £107,862, total Parish receipts were higher than the £101,774 received in 2023, due mainly to increases in donations and fees for our activities and grants.

A total of £94,694 was spent from unrestricted funds to provide the Christian ministry from Bishop Auckland Parish, including the contribution of a Diocesan Parish Share of £39,210, (£7,969 more than in 2023). Other major costs were in respect of insurance, utilities, and buildings maintenance.

Payments from restricted funds amounted to £72,605; 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 £167,299, an increase from the £143,755 in 2023.

The net result for the year was an excess of payments over receipts of £59,437 overall.

Based on the bank and deposit balances brought forward at the beginning of the year, the balances carried forward at 31 December 2024 thus amounted to £57,576.40 of unrestricted funds and £37,366.55 of restricted funds, that is, £94,942.95 in total.

The PCC wishes to thank John Griffiths (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 2024:

Vicar - Revd Matthew Keddily

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

Parish Administrator –Mrs Jenny Laycock

Growing Faith Mission Leader – Rev Brett Vallis

Community Mission Leader – Mrs Jo Green (since 3 January 2024)

Blessed Beginnings Sessional Worker – Mrs Claire Scarlett (since 19 February 2024)

Volunteers

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

Safeguarding

The PCC has endorsed and operates in accordance with the House of Bishops Safeguarding Policy for children, young people and adults. Safeguarding is a standing agenda item at all full PCC and Standing Committee meetings.

Rev Matt Keddilty has been acting as Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO), whilst the PCC has been recruiting a new individual to this post, and has worked with staff members and volunteers to ensure that the above safeguarding policy is being adhered to.

All our activities are risk assessed, and all paid and voluntary workers are 'Safer Recruited'. DBS checks and safeguarding training are renewed every three years.

Contact details for local safeguarding officers are clearly displayed in both churches, as well as a list of emergency helplines.

Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The membership of Bishop Auckland PCC consists of the incumbent (our vicar), lay reader and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the Electoral Roll of the church. All those who attend our services / members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC is responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including decisions on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. During 2024 the PCC met four times to discuss church matters. During 2024 a Finance Committee was created whose terms of reference were approved by the PCC. We also have a Global Mission Committee which meets periodically throughout the year to discuss our support for other charities and organisations at home and abroad. The Global Mission Committee is responsible to the PCC and reports back to it regularly.

Three lay members of the PCC sit on the Deanery Synod and Diocesan Synod. This provides the PCC with an important link between the Parish and the wider structures of the Anglican Church.

Administrative Information

Bishop Auckland Parish consists of two churches: St Andrew's Church, South Church, Bishop Auckland DL14 6FR and St Anne's Church, Market Place, Bishop Auckland DL14 7NP. Bishop Auckland Parish is part of the Diocese of Durham within the Church of England.

The Parish Office is based in St Anne's Church and is open Monday to Friday, 9.30 am to 12.30 pm when the Parish Administrator is available to respond to enquiries from members of the public.

The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and became a registered charity (number 1180703) in November 2018.

PCC members who were in office during 2024:

Incumbent: Revd Matthew Keddilty

Chairperson

Reader: Mrs Catherine Taylor

Vice Chair

Wardens:

Mrs Ruth Riddell (also Representative to Deanery Synod)

Mr Martin Wood (until 24 June 2024) (also Representative to Deanery Synod and Diocesan Synod)

Marilyn Weerasinghe (from 24 June 2024)

Nick Barker (from 24 June 2024)

Elaine Simpson (from 24 June 2024)

Elected Members:

Anthony Coulls

Mrs Joanne Green

Miss Ruth Keddilty

Mr David Riddell (also Representative to Deanery Synod)

Mr John Waine

Mrs Marilyn Weerasinghe (from 19 May 2024)

Nora Jones (from 19 May 2024)

Julie Bowes (from 19 May 2024)

Shirley Brown (from 19 May 2024)

Mrs Rachel Wood

Co-opted Members:

Diane Manners (from 6 October 2024)

Ex-officio Members:

Martin Wood (from 24 June 2024)

This report and associated accounts were presented to the APCM of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Bishop Auckland on 18 May 2025.

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, REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1180703**

I report on the accounts of the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Bishop Auckland for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are set out in 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 the trustees concerning 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' 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 this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed



Date

10 / 05 / 2025

Name

JOHN LLOYD GRIFFITHS

Address

LIDO HOUSE, 22 NEW FOLD,
HOLMFIRTH, WEST YORKS,
HD9 2DQ

Relevant professional Qualification(s) or body (if any)

B.A. (Hons.) F.C.M.A

Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

	Note	Unrestricted	Restricted	TOTAL	TOTAL
		Funds	Funds	2024	2023
		£	£	£	£
RECEIPTS					
Voluntary Receipts:					
Planned Giving	9	34,902	1,690	36,591	36,440
Collections at Services		5,458	-	5,458	9,847
Other voluntary giving		4,127	13,090	17,217	11,843
Gift Aid and GASDS Recovered		9,310	1,825	11,135	10,703
Legacies		-	-	-	500
Grants		-	23,742	23,742	11,530
		53,796	40,347	94,143	80,863
Activities for Generating Funds		-	-	-	-
Investment Income		3,470	2,730	6,200	6,631
Church Activities	5a	4,279	3,168	7,447	13,236
Any other income		-	73	73	1,045
TOTAL RECEIPTS		61,545	46,317	107,862	101,774
PAYMENTS					
Church Activities:					
Diocesan Parish Share Contribution		39,210	-	39,210	31,241
Salaries & Honoraria	6+7	10,634	54,480	65,114	38,426
Clergy & Staff Expenses		1,730	-	1,730	959
Mission & Evangelism		2,008	8,626	10,634	10,568
Mission Giving & Donations	5b	2,284	-	2,284	2,402
		55,867	63,105	118,972	83,597
Church Running Expenses:					
Insurances		11,471	-	11,471	10,943
Church Maintenance		690	14	704	3,563
Administration Costs		5,938	31	5,969	4,906
Utilities		14,713	1,804	16,517	20,768
Other Church running expenses	5c	5,388	1,272	6,660	7,968
Major Church Repairs & Maintenance		-	6,379	6,379	11,762
Costs of trading		-	-	-	-
		38,200	9,500	47,700	59,910
Costs of Generating Funds		627	-	627	248
Other Payments		-	-	-	-
TOTAL PAYMENTS		94,694	72,605	167,299	143,755
EXCESS OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS		(33,149)	(26,288)	(59,437)	(41,981)
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Adjustment to closing balance		-	-	-	(363)
Prior year adjustment		(1,728)	-	(1,728)	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(34,878)	(26,288)	(61,165)	(42,344)
Cash in hand & Bank Balances at 1st Jan		92,454	63,654	156,108	198,452
Cash in hand & Bank Balances at 31st Dec		57,576	37,367	94,943	156,108

STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES AT 31 DECEMBER

	Note	Unrestricted	Restricted	TOTAL	TOTAL
		Funds	Funds	2024	2023
		£	£	£	£
Cash Funds					
Cash in hand and bank current account		(21,285.60)	27,897.95	6,612.35	7,711.85
HSBC Deposit accounts		-	6.88	6.88	-
C.B.F. Deposit Funds		-	9,461.72	9,461.72	58,592.94
C.B.F. Trust Fund (Lightfoot Institute)		78,862.00	-	78,862.00	89,501.79
		57,576.40	37,366.55	94,942.95	155,806.58
Other Monetary Assets					
Debtors		-	-	-	2,698
Gift Aid Recoverable		9,310	1,825	11,135	10,703
Assets retained for Church Use		-	-	-	-
Liabilities					
Creditors		-	-	-	-

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	70	6	-	-	76
St Anne's Old School Fund	58,093	2,696	-	(30,839)	29,951
Lord Crewe's Charity for Relief in Need	7,264	1,000	-	(2,264)	6,000
Durham County Council Bishop Auckland Heritage Action Zone	1,171	-	-	-	1,171
Youth & Children	(3,854)	16,036	43,021	30,839	-
The Friends of St Anne	430	23	-	-	452
Parish Administrator Fund	-	2,740	2,740	-	-
Heating Charges	-	1,804	1,804	-	-
Audio-Visual Equipment	-	410	14	-	396
Organ Maintenance	-	180	-	-	180
St Andrew's Bells	400.00	4,400	6,379	-	(1,579)
Relief-in-Need	-	8,676	13,888	2,264	(2,949)
Accounting Software	31	-	31	-	-
Flowers	50	-	-	-	50
Bookstall	-	774	1,199	-	(425)
St Anne's Church	-	254	-	-	254
NWL & ESW Water (Refund)	-	73	73	-	-
St Andrew's '750'	-	7,242	3,457	-	3,785
St Andrew's Fabric	-	4	-	-	4
	63,654	46,317	72,605	-	37,367
Unrestricted					
Lightfoot Institute	89,502	3,464	-	(14,104)	78,862

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

St Anne's Old School Fund is for educational purposes. £30,839 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. £2,264 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.

£14,104 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	2,476	-	187	-	2,288
Donations from third parties to charities	194	517	215	-	495.17
Fees and other payments to third parties	2,616	6,675	9,245	-	45.60

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 2024 £	TOTAL 2023 £
Receipts				
a. Church activities				
Fees for weddings and funerals	3,759	2,394	6,153	12,039
<i>Trading activities:</i>				
Room Rental	520	-	520	560
Bookstall	-	774	774	-
Total receipts from trading activities	520	774	1,294	1,196
	4,279	3,168	7,447	13,236
Payments				
b. Mission giving and donations				
ANAZAO	100		100	-
Christians Against Poverty	300	-	300	300
Christian Aid - Turkey & Syria Earthquake			-	250
Compassion UK	384	-	384	352
Medaille Trust	300		300	300
Mercy Ships UK	300		300	300
Prison Fellowship	300		300	300
The Message Trust	300		300	300
Woodhouse Close Community Centre	300		300	300
	2,284	-	2,284	2,402
c. Other church running expenses				
Vicarage(s) expenditure (water)	691	73	764	2,052
Church cleaning	1,149	-	1,149	1,187
Upkeep of services	388	-	388	930
Upkeep of churchyard	840	-	840	840
Governance costs	771	-	771	661
Church alarms (not itemized in 2022 Financial Statement)	1,552	-	1,552	1,661
Bookstall	-	1,199	1,199	636
	5,388	1,272	6,660	7,968

NOTES (Cont.)

6. During 2024 spouse to PCC Chair was remunerated for employment as Children & Families' Mission Leader (£12,811) plus travel expenses.
7. During 2024 a trustee was remunerated for employment as Community Mission Leader (£9,883) plus travel expenses.
8. Verger fees have been donated to PCC funds on request of the current post holder.
9. Some planned giving is restricted to the Parish Administrator salary.
10. No Trustees received any remuneration for services as a Trustee.