

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF SAINT JOHN'S CHURCH, SHILDON

England & Wales · Charity number 1181299

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 2018-12-20

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

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Activities

Objects: PROMOTING IN THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH THE WHOLE MISSION OF THE CHURCH.

Activities: We are a church who meet at St John's parish church Shildon. Co. Durham DL4 1DW. We donate every month to various charities throughout the year.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Durham

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£64,158	£67,601	-	-
2023-12-31	£74,365	£100,207	-	-
2022-12-31	£79,540	£94,670	-	-
2021-12-31	£65,898	£63,704	-	-
2020-12-31	£78,041	£84,622	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev Carol Harris	Chair	2020-06-24
ANN SANDERSON		2010-04-01
Adele Todd		2011-04-01
Andrew Harris Mr		2020-10-21
Anne Marie Cleasby		2010-04-01
Beverley Alison Walker		2022-04-05
Dorothy Truby		2014-04-01
Ian Bradley Cooper		2022-04-05
Jane Abigail Copland		2020-10-28
Lynne Hilda Arnold		2020-10-28
Olga Daisy Bainbridge		2010-04-01
PAUL ARNOLD DIP PFS		2018-12-01

Accounts

Saint John's Church, Shildon

Annual Report April 2024– April 2025



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Administrative Information

St John's Church is situated on Church St, Shildon. It is part of the Diocese of Durham within the Church of England. The correspondence address is St John's Vicarage, 1A Burnie Gardens, Shildon, County Durham, DL4 1ND.

Parish Organisation

Priest in Charge: Revd. Carol Harris
St John's Vicarage, 1A Burnie Gardens, Shildon, DL4 1ND
01388 778998 carol.harris@durham.anglican.org
Assistant Minister: Revd. Frances Cooper
frances.cooper@durham.anglican.org
Assistant Curate: Revd. Emma Harte
Emma.harte@durham.anglican.org

The PCC of St. John's Church, Shildon, has the responsibility for co-operating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

The PCC is a charity registered with the Charity Commission. Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected by the annual parochial church meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. During the year the following served as members of the PCC:

Church Warden:	Mrs A. Todd (elected 2020)
Lay Chair:	Mrs A Todd
Treasurer:	Mr. P. Arnold
Secretary:	Mrs D. Truby
	Mrs L. Arnold (Gift Aid Co Ordinator)
	Mrs. O. Bainbridge
	Mrs A. Cleasby (Safeguarding Officer)
	Mr. I. Cooper
	Mrs. J. Copland
	Mr A. Harris
	Mrs A. Sanderson
	Ms. B Walker
Deanery Synod Reps:	Mr P. Arnold and Mr. T Hillary

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Clergy Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishops' Guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.)

Report on the electoral roll

The number on the new electoral roll is 51.
The electoral roll officer is Mr Andrew Harris.

Minister's Report April 24 – March 25

For us all as a church the annual meeting and the annual reports give a chance to stop and look at all the ways we have seen God at work in the midst of us in the year that has gone and to give thanks. Often if you are not involved yourself you are not aware of what other people are doing as part of our church family so I hope you will be able to spend time reading and praying for the various groups and ministries of the church.

We each received so much from God when we became children of God, maybe many many years ago and for others very recently, when we decided to follow Jesus. Psalm 63 speaks beautifully of a life lived trusting in God's presence and his constant love

Psalm 63: 5, 8 - 'Your loving kindness is better than life itself and so my lips shall praise you. You have been my helper and under the shadow of your wings will I rejoice. My soul clings to you; your right hand shall hold me fast.'

and it is my prayer, that I hope is shared with many of us, that all that we do as a church shines out the love and light and hope of Jesus within our church and out in the community as we worship together and live our lives sharing his love with those around us so that many more come to discover this love of Jesus for themselves. In August the PCC explored on a vision evening who we are as a church, what characterises St John's Shildon, and how do we listen to God as he leads us on and there were many wise thoughts and reflections shared by many. We continue to remember that Jesus is the vine and that it is only as we remain in him that we bear fruit (John 15)

We continue to hold the church priorities we set in 2021. Having priorities helps to shape who we are as a church and where we choose to invest our energy and time.

The priorities we have are church growth, both in numbers in the congregation and in discipleship with a particular emphasis on seeing a diverse range of ages represented in the church congregation. The second is to focus on children and young people and how we can engage with this group in more depth and the third is to continue with the priority of engaging with and serving our local community with a particular emphasis on continuing to work with and support our church project Shildon Alive.

Around these priorities it has been lovely to see new people of all ages joining us this year both at our main Sunday morning service as well as other services such as First Sunday and Messy Church. It has been encouraging particularly at present to see how many people are engaging with the lent course and I hope we can establish new house groups alongside the established ones when it finishes. At St John's School it is amazing to have Catherine now working two days a week as chaplain and along with all on the team it has been such a joy to see the children and families coming alive in faith as we look to establish a new worshipping community in the school. And at Shildon Alive it is incredible to read the statistics for the year that has gone and learn how much the charity has achieved in the year. It is good that four PCC members continue to be trustees for Shildon Alive and that other church members continue to volunteer regularly while others donate and support in many practical ways through the year.

Finally thank you to all the ministry team, church officers, PCC members and everyone else who has served the church so faithfully this year. Ann Sanderson is stepping down from the PCC this year having given many years of dedicated service to the church so it is a particular thanks to Ann for all she has given to the church over many years. There are too many people to name individually but I give thanks for all you do as we together live our lives as disciples of Jesus.

At the end of 2024 on the last Sunday of the year we looked at Colossians 3: 12 - 17 as we reflected on who we are as the people of God in Shildon as we moved into 2025. May this be the picture of us as the people of God here in St Johns Shildon -

'¹² Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³ Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. ¹⁵ Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.'

Revd. Carol Harris, March 2025

PCC Secretary's report.

During the last 12 months, we have held 8 meetings, with good attendance, plus one extraordinary meeting after church one Sunday. Dorothy gave her thanks to Anne and Lynne who took the minutes during her absence.

During the past year we have held many different activities. There was a Prayer Day during May, followed by a Beetle Drive which created lots of fun and laughter. We supported Christian Aid by holding a coffee morning, and we also held our annual church summer and winter fayres. In July we had a Vision meeting which was open to all members of the congregation who wished to attend. October saw a soup and quiz evening.

During November a few members of the St. John's school "Families @ 4" team attended a seminar at the Glo Centre for a day of training. Also during November, the PCC attended a diocesan evening of training at Cuthbert House, which was also attended by other PCC's from across the diocese.

During March we had our "annual" pancake and Low Bar Talent Show. Much fun was had with various acts to entertain us.

It has been a very busy year at our church, with lots of services and activities.

We give special thanks to Ann Sanderson, who is stepping down from the PCC, after many years of devoted service as church warden and member of the PCC. We are pleased that Ann will continue to run the craft club, and still help at various events.

Dorothy Truby - PCC Secretary

Treasurer's Report

Financial Review for Parish AGM 7th April 2025.

Annual Financial statements and accounts for the year ended 31/12/2024.

These have been circulated for your perusal. It should be noted that we ended the year in deficit by £3,022. This was due to the continuing high utility bills among other maintenance items. We had to transfer £5,000 of our investment reserves to our general account to cover this deficit. This has led to a balance of £2,161 on our general account.

The upkeep and maintenance account was in deficit and transfers from the general account had to be made to keep this account in credit the balance on this account is nil although it should be noted that £2116 was set aside for the electrician's bill in early January. The totals carried forward including our invested reserves reduced from £39,263 to £33,228. Any money from fundraising is credited to the building and maintenance account.

Income

Planned giving increased by £1,708, collections decreased slightly by £666. Gift Aid increased by £47. Income from other sources, Grants and Legacies increased by £1248. Overall giving increased by £1,248.

Income from fundraising decreased and rent from the mission hall increased. A lot of these decreases I believe are due to the cost-of-living crisis. Thanks go to all who have contributed to the fundraising, especially the Social and Fundraising committee.

Overall, our total income reduced from £69,178 to £64,158 a reduction of £5,020.

Expenditure.

Clergy and staffing costs were similar. The PCC decided to reduce the parish share contributions to a more affordable level, if we had not done so the overall deficit would have been £9,322 which would have substantially reduced our reserves from £11,000 to £5,000 (see reserves policy)

Church running costs were significantly lower due to problems with utility bills being corrected and less, repairs, and maintenance costs.

Mission Hall running costs were lower due to less maintenance costs.

Overall, our expenses decreased from £94,911 to £67,501 a reduction of £27,410 however £23,694 of the £94,911 was due to the quinquennial work.

Future Challenges.

I see this as being the effect of inflation and our ability to keep pace with it. Every year when our own personal income increases, either wage rises or pension income, we need to review what we give to church as the church is feeling the effects of inflation just as we do with our personal lives. In particular at present the costs of energy are still being felt in our expenses.

Reserves Policy.

The recommended reserves to be maintained are equivalent to three months payments. If possible, we would like to maintain a balance on our general (unrestricted) fund which would equate to three months payments this includes the money held with CCLA. This would mean we would need to maintain £15,000 to cover emergencies. Unfortunately we had to use £5,000 of the reserve money to prop up the general fund this year, our investments grew by £1,000 which means we currently have £11,000 as reserve monies.

Thank You.

I wish to use this opportunity to thank Joan Hodgson who deals with the collections and day to day banking and also Lynne Arnold who co-ordinates the gift aid keeps records and submits the claim. Without these people my role as treasurer would be significantly more time consuming.

Paul Arnold

Parish Treasurer.

Church Wardens' Fabric Report

Annual checks and servicing complete as well as general repairs and maintenance to the fabric of the Church.

An electrical consumer unit had to be replaced in order to enable us to obtain our 5-year electrical certificate.

Hive Thermostats have been installed to our heating system which enables us to control our heating remotely through the internet.

All repairs and servicing is up to date at the mission hall.

We would like to say a huge thank you to David Dent who volunteers in maintaining and making the garden a lovely place for everyone to enjoy.

Myself and Jane Copland, assistant churchwarden, would like to thank the P.C.C. and everyone for their support throughout the year.

Adele Todd

Deanery Synod

The parish was represented on the Deanery Synod by Revd Carol Harris, Revd Frances Cooper, Revd Emma Hart, Paul Arnold, Tim Hillary.

There are usually three meetings annually, where various topics are discussed. This year we had speakers Revd Claire Gibbs and Bethan Smith (Environmental Focus) Paul Child who is the Parish Giving and Finance Advisor. Kimberley Lo and Derek Bagnall (Sunderland Hope4All a Community of Hope)

We also hear about good news from other parishes, where other parishes share what they are doing and works well.

Other matters passed down from the diocese were discusses e.g. The safeguarding review these were also forwarded on to the parishes for discussion or implementation.

Stanhope deanery has now disbanded and some parishes have been included into the Auckland deanery.

Paul Arnold

Deanery Representative.

Music Group Report

Paul, Simon and I are now into our 8th year of providing music for worship at St. John's. We continue to play music on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month, as well as other major services throughout the year. Paul and I also play regularly for messy church.

Particular highlights of the year are the 4pm Christmas Eve service when we are usually joined by Ruby, our daughter, and other services such as the deanery confirmation held at our church this year and ecumenical services.

Our commitment is ongoing, and we enjoy playing a variety of hymns with a repertoire of about 300, and hope to continue for the foreseeable future.

Lynne Arnold

Messy Church

We meet on the second Saturday of the month. We start at two pm with an activity in the foyer while people register. We then move into the church and have a prayers, a talk, a bible story and singing. After that we move on to the crafts which are all based around the bible story for that day. We have covered various topics during the year with Feeding of the five thousand, House on the rock and the Lords Prayer among them. Numbers have fluctuated this year although numbers were up for December and January. We are planning an outdoor Easter egg hunt (weather permitting!) Many thanks to the team, who set up, prepare the talk, activities, worship and clearing away. Last but not least many thanks to the catering team!

Jane Copland

St. John's Church – Explorers' Group AGM Report

Sunday School is now held in the foyer of Church with myself and Becky Callaghan taking turns to teach each week. Our sessions last 25 minutes approximately. We do 3/4 classes a month with the third Sunday being All Age Worship, where children stay with their family/carer(s) for the Church Service.

We have been following the New Testament. We help the children understand the scripture for the week and do a craft relating to the reading. Children can choose to go to the front of Church to show what they have made/drawn to the congregation.

Some Sundays we have no children who attend. We have six children who attend the majority of sessions throughout the year. Numbers do fluctuate around school holidays and seasonal events.

We are very flexible and the children enjoy themselves. The children are free to leave the lesson at any time.

Anne Cleasby & Becky Callaghan.

St John's Toddler Group Report

It has been amazing to reflect on the last year and seeing where God has been at work.

Toddlers' has continued to be a privilege to walk alongside the adults and children that have attended the Toddler Group and seeing the Spirit move through the relationships that are being built and strengthened and those that are just beginning.

The structure of the group is well established last year as it seems to be working well, and the children who have attended previously know the format and get excited when their favourite part is about to start, and also prompt the leaders about what is about to happen next.

People continue to come via word of mouth and through contact with church mission and ministry.

The services that we hold in church for key liturgical events such as Pentecost, Christmas and Easter see the greatest number of attendees, compared to the normal sessions.

Unfortunately, the variety of sessions that we had begun to offer on rotation: Messy Play, Music and Movement, and a Sensory Session: needed to be suspended come the start of the new year in September due to a change in leaders. Nikki Ross, stopped coming due to personal reasons. Gemma Pattison, left to start a new job. Which left Revd Emma Harte-Waters and Rachel Foster, as leaders, with Katie as a formal helper.

Moving forward, Katie will be moving and Revd Emma, has took a step back due to her curacy coming to an end soon. However, two mums who attend have put their names forward as wanting to step up and help keep, Rachel keep the group going. Which is absolutely amazing.

The numbers of attendees on a weekly basis have dropped this year. Although, this seems to be a trend across all toddler groups in the area. We have had a few mums from our previous cohort, who left as they went to nursery, coming back with their new babies, which serves as a testimony to how well loved and valued the group is.

The group regularly has between 5-10 toddlers and babies attending each session. Each paying £1 per family. The group continues to be self-sufficient, purchasing: refreshments, books, gifts, equipment needed for the extra sessions. We currently have a balance of £54.39

I look forward to seeing where God leads the Toddler Group, as they, 'Go in the name of Christ.'

Revd. Emma Harte

Youth Group Report

It has been great to welcome Catherine Simpson to the team! We have moved from a weekly group to once a fortnight during term time. We also changed the age group to include Year 6s to help the transition between the chaplaincy club at St John's School and the youth group. We have six regular members and a few others who come occasionally.

We have a variety of different activities including discussions, games, challenges, crafts and of course snacks! Since September we have also included preparation for the Families@4 at the school. We always have some Christian teaching and the opportunity to explore faith together. We didn't go on camp together in the summer this year but took part in the Diocesan Pulse events, including the silent disco at the Cathedral and the youth pilgrimage to Holy Island. Off site we also had a walk in Bishop Auckland Park followed by chips in the market place and we went to the cinema together to see Elf at Christmas!

A huge thank you to Bev Walker and Catherine Simpson.

Andy Harris

Church Flowers

We would like to say a huge thankyou to everyone for their donations you give so generously for the flowers and the Busy Bees for their generosity This ensures us that there are always floral displays in the Church especially at Church festival celebrations and events and throughout the year. We also provide floral arrangements for weddings, and floral tributes for the bereaved in memory of their loved ones.

Adele Todd

Social and fund-raising committee report

The last 12 months have seen a variety of events. In 2024 we held a beetle drive in March, Christian Aid coffee morning in May, summer fayre in June, vicarage social in July, outing to Hawes Creamery and Leyburn in September, McMillan coffee morning in September, harvest supper and quiz in October, and Christmas fayre in November. So far in 2025, we have had a cowboy themed beetle drive in February and the pancake and low bar talent show in March. Our two main fundraising events are the summer fayre and Christmas fayre.

Attendance at the 2024 summer fayre was disappointing, and it was concluded that it was too soon after another large event in the town. With this in mind, the dates for the fayres are to be revised instead of staying with the last Saturday in June and November every year.

The 2024 Christmas fayre was opened after a wonderful performance by children from St. John's School, who entertained us all with some beautifully sung Christmas songs.

The Northern Voices concert on 7th December 2024 unfortunately didn't go ahead. This was due to the severe storm making travelling conditions dangerous for choir and audience alike.

There are a number of events planned for 2025, with themes to celebrate the 200th Anniversary of the railway which started in Shildon in 1825. There is a timeline of events on the notice board in the foyer, and all will be publicised prior to the date they are to take place.

The social and fund raising committee continues to meet when required to plan and discuss events, and help is always welcome.

Social and fund raising committee

Memory Café

Our aim is for people living with dementia or are supporting someone living with dementia or memory problems to come along meet new people. They are able to share their experiences, or simply have a cuppa and a chat in a relaxed enjoyable environment with a variety of activities. We meet every first Tuesday in the month at Rowan Avenue Community Lounge. Some of the residents from our two nursing homes in the town also attend. Thank you to our volunteers that help in making it a relaxed and enjoyable place for the attendees to enjoy. We would also like to thank Livin', the Alzheimers Society and the Busy Bees for their donation.

Adele Todd

Craft and Chat Thursday afternoon group

We meet every other Thursday 1.00 – 2.30pm in the upstairs hall. We have enjoyed a number of crafts this year, our favourite being diamond art, we decorated shopping bags, key rings, coasters and birthday cards. Along with other craft groups in Shildon we decorated wire hearts, which were displayed in the town square. A lady came from Daisy Arts and showed us how to do jelly art, our finished items are going to be displayed at an exhibition in Bishop Auckland.

If anyone would like to join us, please see Adele Todd or Ann Sanderson.

Adele Todd and Ann Sanderson

Housegroups

Bible Study Sunnydale - Fellowship In Someone's House. (Formerly Dean St house group)

It was decided during the course of last year, that as we no longer meet in Dean Street, we should rename the group. After a discussion we decided on the name F.I.S.H. (fellowship in someone's house). We liked that the name uses the Christian symbol of fish, and the fact that it doesn't have to be based in one address, although it is based at my address in Sunnydale.

We meet on the second Tuesday of the month. We changed from evening meetings to afternoons, as this suits everyone's schedules better.

As the name suggests we meet to share fellowship with each other, and last year saw us finish the prayer course by Pete Greig and also follow the prayer course 2 which helped us to understand 'unanswered prayer.' As well as bible study and prayer-based courses, we actively support anyone who is in need of any support- be that emotional, physical and spiritual support. We all have low and high points in life and sometimes we need our Christian family to spend time listening and praying about a health condition, family issues, traumatic occurrences and sometimes just to cheer us up if we're low.

We enjoy exploring our Faith, learning new things and trying to become more like Christ would want us to be, by studying the Bible and learning to be more rooted in our relationship with Christ through prayer. We aren't experts! We are just like-minded Christians who are striving to be better!

We continue our fellowship throughout the month when Jane shares a prayer/verse/quote or bible passage each day, through our group chat. It helps us to start the day with Jesus in our hearts and minds. We currently have about 7 people join together, and we would welcome anyone who would like to join us (though if lots of you come you might have to bring a chair!)

Bronwen Coley

Home Communion

The visiting team continue to visit those members of the church who are unable to regular church services. As a rule, the home visits are held once a month, to a day and time convenient to both parties. The visits are very much appreciated, and following Communion there is always time for a chat.

If you know of anyone who would like to receive Home Communion have a word with Dorothy or Carol.

Dorothy Truby

Care Home Services

We take services once a month at both our local care homes, Redworth House and Holly Lodge Care Home. We sing familiar hymns together, listen to a Bible reading and pray together. The residents, who include church members who can no longer come to church, are always pleased to see us and we have a lovely time worshipping and chatting together.

St John's School

The relationship between St John's School and the Church continues to be very strong. Our PCC governors are Andy Harris (chair), Revd. Carol Harris, Revd. Emma Waters and Paul Arnold. Carol and Emma continue to lead regular collective worship at the school and we have continued to hold whole school services once a term in Church.

In September we received funding from the diocese to be able to increase Catherine's time in school to two days a week. This was in order to establish with a team from church a new worshipping community in the school. Please see Catherine's report below.

School Chaplain

It has been my privilege and joy to continue my role as school chaplain to St John's primary school. From September 2024 due to additional funding through the Diocese, I have extended my hours from one to two days a week which has given me increased capacity in school for the staff and children but also to offer opportunities for families to explore faith together. This has been primarily through our half termly Families@4 collective worship service. A huge thank you to all of the team who take part, plan and pray for this event. We have been so encouraged by the enthusiasm in school for this venture. We look forward to continuing to develop this further as part of our desire to build a new worshipping community with the school. School life is busy with after-school and lunch time clubs, worship warriors and various faith in action projects also linking in with Shildon Alive. I have also supported Andy with the youth group and have enjoyed taking part in the life of the church on Sundays in different ways.

Catherine Simpson

St. John's Bell ringers

Our mission remains to provide bellringing services for Sunday worship, plus weddings, funerals and other special occasions (such as St. Johns school visits at Easter, Christingle, etc). All ringers are volunteers.

The practice night is Wednesday from 7:30pm till 9pm.

Both of the above activities are dependent on the availability of bellringers, which is arranged in advance, primarily by means of a WhatsApp group. The tower has close relationships with St. Andrews, Southchurch and All Saints, Hurworth-on-Tees, and exchange visits and ringer-sharing is common to make up the numbers (Shildon has 8 bells, but rarely enough ringers). There are occasional requests from a visiting band to visit our tower and "ring a peal".

Plans for 2025.

We hope to contribute to the bicentenary celebrations of the railways by sounding out our bells on 2 specific occasions this year:

July 4th. Exactly 100 years since the centenary peal by railway engineers, a similar peal to be rung by a local band.

September 27th. 50 years since the 150th anniversary peal of the opening of the line. The Hopetown organisation have been made aware of this in the hope that they would provide or contribute to a new peal board for the tower; if this is forthcoming, a faculty would be requested.

The bellringers AGM is November 8th. It is our turn to host this, this year.

Trevor Thompson, Phil Traviss,



Shildon Alive

Shildon Alive has continued to have a massive impact on the lives of so many in the town and we, as a Church, are extremely proud of all it achieves. Trustees who are members of the PCC are Dorothy Truby, Olga Bainbridge, Rev. Frances Cooper and Rev. Carol Harris who is the Chair of the charity. Other church members volunteer regularly and support throughout the year. Below is a report from Paula Nelson, the project manager....

‘Over the last year we have been extremely busy and often pushed to breaking point with the level of need in the community, our team have however risen to the challenges and worked together to overcome difficult circumstances. Staff and volunteers together have worked hard and shown great dedication to our community and each other. We have been very proud to receive awards which have recognised the dedication and hard work of our volunteers and staff. In April 2024 we received the King’s Award for Voluntary Service and in November 24 we won the Community/ Voluntary Group Award category for County Durham from the County Durham Together Awards sponsored by the Northern Echo.

We continue to provide advice and advocacy and help people to rebuild their lives following a crisis with our dedicated advocate alongside practical help with food and support. In 2024 Shildon Alive crisis supported 1523 individuals who were clients accessing advice and support along with a cupboard top up and free access to the community shop via our red token scheme.

The kitchen in our community takeaway is always busy. In 2024, 15,354 meals went out. Of those 1532 were crises meals for someone who needed a hot meal; 4026 were holiday club meals and 9797 were meals on wheels and takeaway meals.

In the year we rescued 82,668 tonnes of food from going to landfill. Our drivers collect food from a number of supermarkets and wholesalers who partner with us in giving us their food at the end of the day. This food we shared with 8 other partner organisations in our area who all have told us the difference the food makes to their support of vulnerable people in their own areas.

We continue to work in our community garden with our community engagement officer working with all ages from toddlers and their families up to adults who attend weekly gardening and composting sessions. She also works in the local schools teaching the pupils about the journey of food and running cooking sessions with various groups. We now have school pop up shops in all our primary schools with pupils running the stalls after school weekly to support their families. We can only estimate the reach of these, but schools indicate that at least 80 families access these weekly.

It was lovely to be part of the harvest festival in October which was a wonderful celebration of Shildon Alive in church. It was amazing to see the amount of food that had been collected from the church and the three primary schools to support us.

I would like to say ‘thank you’ to so many people at Saint John’s Church for their continued support throughout the year with regular food donations, practical support and financial support.

Paula Nelson,

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, SHILDON
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

	Note	Unrestricted Fund	Unrestricted Designated Fund	Restricted Fund	Endowment Fund	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
		£	£	£	£	£	£
RECEIPTS							
Voluntary Receipts:							
Planned Giving		18,825	-	-	-	18,825	17,117
Collections		4,438	-	530	-	4,968	5,634
Gift Aid Recovered		4,715	-	-	-	4,715	4,668
All Other Giving/Voluntary	1	970	148	6,807	-	7,925	6,677
		28,948	148	7,337	-	36,433	34,096
Activities for Generating Funds							
	2	108	3,839	-	-	3,947	4,934
	3	18,153	-	-	-	18,153	17,281
Investment Income							
Church Activities:							
Income from Trading	4	10	838	-	-	848	248
Other Receipts	5	4,777	-	-	-	4,777	7,619
C of E Investment Fund Shares sold		-	-	-	-	-	5,000
		4,787	838	-	-	5,625	12,867
Total Receipts							
		51,996	4,825	7,337	-	64,158	69,178
PAYMENTS							
Church Activities:							
Parish Share		29,700	-	-	-	29,700	36,000
Clergy and Staffing Costs	6	2,031	29	-	-	2,060	2,007
Church Running Expenses	7	15,410	5,399	576	-	21,385	42,706
Hall Running Costs	8	7,462	-	-	-	7,462	8,911
Missionary Giving and Donations	9	241	-	6,409	-	6,650	5,085
Costs of Trading	10	244	-	-	-	244	202
		55,088	5,428	6,985	-	67,501	94,911
Cost of Generating Funds							
		-	-	-	-	-	-
Governance Costs							
	11	100	-	-	-	100	109
Total Payments							
		55,188	5,428	6,985	-	67,601	95,020
Excess of Receipts over Payments							
	12	(3,192)	(603)	352	-	(3,443)	(25,842)
Transfers between funds							
		-	-	-	-	-	-
Cash at Bank and in Hand 1 Jan							
		171	18,060	5,109	-	23,340	49,182
Cash at Bank and in Hand 31 Dec							
		(3,021)	17,457	5,461	-	19,897	23,340

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, SHILDON
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

	Note	Unrestricted Fund	Unrestricted Designated Fund	Restricted Fund	Endowment Fund	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Receipts							
All Other Giving/Voluntary Receipts							
Donations, appeals etc.	1	970	148	307	-	1,425	1,362
Grants		-	-	6,500	-	6,500	5,315
		970	148	6,807	-	7,925	6,677
Activities for Generating Funds	2						
Summer Fayre		-	1,275	-	-	1,275	1,356
Winter Fayre		-	1,747	-	-	1,747	1,850
Church Trip		-	-	-	-	-	425
Concert		-	-	-	-	-	420
Quiz		-	-	-	-	-	-
Beetle Drive		-	145	-	-	145	-
Easy Fundraising		-	180	-	-	180	-
Lent Lunch		-	177	-	-	177	41
Tea & Coffee/Coffee Mornings		108	-	-	-	108	-
		-	315	-	-	315	842
		108	3,839	-	-	3,947	4,934
Investment Income	3						
Rent from Mission Hall		16,989	-	-	-	16,989	16,058
Bank Interest		2	-	-	-	2	-
Dividend		1,162	-	-	-	1,162	1,223
		18,153	-	-	-	18,153	17,281
Income from Trading	4						
Hall Rents		10	838	-	-	848	248
		10	838	-	-	848	248
Other Receipts	5						
Receipts for Weddings & Funerals		4,777	-	-	-	4,777	7,619
		4,777	-	-	-	4,777	7,619

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, SHILDON
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

	Note	Unrestricted Fund	Unrestricted Designated Fund	Restricted Fund	Endowment Fund	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Expenses							
Clergy & Staffing Costs	6						
Vicarage Expenses		353	-	-	-	353	426
Working Expenses of Clergy		1,613	29	-	-	1,642	1,387
Vergers' Fees		60	-	-	-	60	175
Youth Work Expenses		5	-	-	-	5	19
		2,031	29	-	-	2,060	2,007
Church Running Expenses	7						
Light & Heat		6,581	-	-	-	6,581	10,911
Insurance		5,041	-	-	-	5,041	4,345
Repairs & Maintenance		524	5,399	-	-	5,923	23,694
Water Rates		704	-	-	-	704	465
Cleaning		1,265	-	-	-	1,265	1,487
Upkeep of Services		826	-	576	-	1,402	1,365
Post Stationery & Admin Costs		469	-	-	-	469	439
		15,410	5,399	576	-	21,385	42,706
Hall Running Costs	8						
Light & Heat		6,090	-	-	-	6,090	5,919
Insurance		950	-	-	-	950	1,164
Repairs & Maintenance		125	-	-	-	125	1,264
Water Rates		297	-	-	-	297	564
		7,462	-	-	-	7,462	8,911
Missionary Giving & Donations	9						
Other Donations to Charities		141	-	102	-	243	466
Other Mission Expenses		-	-	6,307	-	6,307	4,450
Other Gifts & Donations		100	-	-	-	100	129
		241	-	6,409	-	6,650	5,045

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, SHILDON
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

<u>Costs of Trading</u>		10							
Licences & Other Expenses		244	-	-	-	-	244		202
		<u>244</u>	-	-	-	-	<u>244</u>		<u>202</u>
<u>Governance Costs</u>		11							
Independent Examination Costs		100	-	-	-	-	100		109
		<u>100</u>	-	-	-	-	<u>100</u>		<u>109</u>
<u>Movements in Restricted & Designated Funds</u>		12							
	Bal b/f	£	Restricted Receipts	Designated Receipts	Restricted Payments	Designated Payments	Transfers	Bal c/f	£
Charity Donations	133	107	565	-	102	-	-	138	
Flowers & Candles Fund	-	-	-	-	565	-	-	-	
Knit & Knatter	431	-	-	-	-	-	-	431	
Upkeep and Maintenance	983	-	-	4,825	-	3,748	-	2,060	
Bellringers	2,743	-	-	-	-	1,680	-	1,063	
Youth Workers Wages	14,161	500	-	-	1,500	-	-	13,161	
Youth Group	644	-	-	-	144	-	-	500	
Youth Assistant	2,339	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,339	
Youth Gardening	790	-	-	-	-	-	-	790	
Messy Church	746	65	-	-	81	-	-	730	
Memory Café	199	100	-	-	175	-	-	124	
Youth Worshipping Community	-	6,000	-	-	4,418	-	-	1,582	
	<u>23,169</u>	<u>7,337</u>	<u>4,825</u>	<u>6,985</u>	<u>5,428</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>22,918</u>		
Restricted	5109							5461	
Designated	18060							17,457	
	<u>23,169</u>							<u>22,918</u>	

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, SHILDON
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

<u>Monetary Assets</u>	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Designated</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Totals</u>	
	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Funds</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
	£	£	£	£	£
Bank Current Account	(3,022)	4,842	4,908	6,728	6,722
Money Master Account	1	2,115	-	2,116	-
C of E Reserve Fund	-	10,500	-	10,500	16,500
Cash in Hand	-	-	553	553	118
	(3,021)	17,457	5,461	19,897	23,340

Other Assets

Fund to which
asset belongs

Designated

CBF Church of England
Investment Fund Income Shares
700.17 Units
(Valuation as at 31/12/2024 £16189.82)

Notes:

The Money Master Account includes £2115 put aside for a Church electrics repair bill, paid in 2025

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PCC OF ST JOHN'S CHURCH, SHILDON

I report on the accounts for year ended 31 December 2024, which are set out on pages A2 to A6.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Independent Examiner

As the members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you 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
- 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. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC 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 statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

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

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

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the requirements of the 2011 Act
- 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.



Mr A Fryatt
14 Willow Road
Middlestone Moor
Spennymoor
DL16 7AR

21 February 2025

Accounts

Saint John's Church, Shildon

Annual Report April 2023– April 2024



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Administrative Information

St John's Church is situated on Church St, Shildon. It is part of the Diocese of Durham within the Church of England. The correspondence address is St John's Vicarage, 1A Burnie Gardens, Shildon, County Durham, DL4 1ND.

Parish Organisation

Priest in Charge: Revd. Carol Harris

St John's Vicarage, 1A Burnie Gardens, Shildon, DL4 1ND

01388 778998 shildonparish@gmail.com

Assistant Minister: Revd. Frances Cooper

frances.cooper@durham.anglican.org

Assistant Curate: Revd. Emma Harte

Emma.harte@durham.anglican.org

The PCC of St. John's Church, Shildon, has the responsibility for co-operating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

The PCC is a charity registered with the Charity Commission. Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected by the annual parochial church meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

During the year the following served as members of the PCC:

Church Wardens:	Mrs A Sanderson (elected 2021)) Mrs A. Todd (elected 2020)
Lay Chair:	Mrs A Todd
Treasurer:	Mr. P. Arnold
Secretary:	Mrs D. Truby
	Mrs L. Arnold (Gift Aid Co Ordinator) Mrs. O. Bainbridge Mrs A. Cleasby (Safeguarding Officer) Mr. I. Cooper Mrs. J. Copland Mr A. Harris Ms. B Walker
Deanery Synod Reps:	Mr P. Arnold and Mr. T Hillary

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Clergy Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishops' Guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.)

Report on the electoral roll

The number on the revised electoral roll for 2024 has gone down by 2 people to a total of 66.

The electoral roll officer is Mrs Mary Harrison.

Minister's Report April 2023 – April 2024

Looking back over the year since last April it seems to have gone very quickly. It has been a busy year with lots to give thanks for as we have seen God at work here in Shildon.

Thank you to all the PCC members for serving this year and in particular to Ann and Adele, our churchwardens, who have worked so hard throughout the year. Ann is stepping down this year and so our particular thanks go to her for all she has given to St John's in this role. Particular thanks also go to Paul, our treasurer, and Dorothy our secretary and everyone who has served the church this year whether they are on the PCC or not – thank you to everybody for all you do.

On our PCC vision evening we reflected together on the purpose of the church and how it is firstly to worship God, secondly to join with God's mission in the world of sharing his love, light and hope in our community and seeing lives transformed and thirdly of living as a community of believers with Jesus' love at the centre of our relationships as we look out for each other, encourage one another, learn from one another and pray with and for one another. As I look round at our church I can see so much of the love of Jesus reflected in our community.

In John 15 Jesus talks about himself as the vine and us all, his followers, as the branches. His command is to abide in him, to let his life flow through us so that we will be fruitful in him as apart from him, he tells us, we can do nothing. Together we are one branch of the vine here in Shildon. We all are followers of Christ and he has called us each individually and us all together as his church, the people of God, to abide in him. So together we shine out his love, his light, his hope and his peace here in Shildon and the surrounding area as we worship, as we proclaim Jesus in word and deed and as we look out and serve our local community and each other within the church family.

We continue to hold the church priorities we set in 2021. Having priorities helps to shape who we are as a church and where we choose to invest our energy and time.

The priorities we have are church growth, both in numbers in the congregation and in discipleship with a particular emphasis on seeing a diverse range of ages represented in the church congregation. The second is to focus on children and young people and how we can engage with this group in more depth and the third is to continue with the priority of engaging with and serving our local community with a particular emphasis on continuing to work with and support our church project Shildon Alive.

As I look back over this year that has gone there has been much to give thanks for within our church community and the wider community. We have seen God at work in so many ways in the lives of individuals and in the life of the church and community as a whole. As you read through the reports below let us give thanks to God for his faithfulness and his presence with us. And as we look forward we are aware that there are significant challenges ahead particularly with regard to church finance but let us keep our eyes on God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit and hold the prayer of the Apostle Paul in our hearts - 'now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we can ask or imagine according to his power at work in us to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations forever and ever. Amen'

Rev. Carol Harris, April 2024

PCC Secretary's report.

During 2023 we held 5 PCC meetings, all with good attendance. Our meetings are held in church, in the Suzanne Cuthbertson Hall, starting at 7pm.

We held one extraordinary meeting, following church, during which Carol told us of a grant which was available from The National Church. This would, if granted, help towards funding the chaplaincy at St. John's School.

We had various church social events, all of which were very enjoyable and well supported. One of the highlights was the pancake supper and low bar talent show, in which members of the congregation showed off their performing skills. It was an evening of fun and laughter.

We also enjoyed an outing to Skipton, with river cruise and then on to Ripon.

As a church we belonged to Churches Together, along with the Salvation Army, St. Thomas's and the Methodist Church. With the resignation of the secretary, and no-one coming forward, we had no option but to close our branch. However, it was decided by all churches that we would continue to meet informally to discuss and plan church events together such as our Easter gatherings.

We say goodbye to Ann Sanderson as church warden, and thank her for her many years of dedicated service and are pleased she is to remain on our PCC. Jane Copland is to become assistant church warden.

Looking forward,

Those members of the congregation who are willing, will serve on opening up the church on Sunday mornings and also serve at the altar holding and serving the chalice.

We hope and pray that our church flourishes in the coming year.

Dorothy Truby - PCC Secretary

Treasurer's Report

. Financial Review for Parish AGM 12th May 2024.

Annual Financial statements and accounts for the year ended 31/12/2023.

These have been circulated for your perusal. It should be noted that we ended the year in deficit by £25,842. This was due to the work that had to be carried out to meet the requirements of the quinquennial inspection. We had to sell £5,000 of our investment reserves and transfer this to our general account to cover some of this deficit. The remainder was covered by balances carried forward from 2022.

The upkeep and maintenance account was in deficit and transfers from the general account had to be made to keep this account in credit. The totals carried forward including our invested reserves reduced from £69,283 to £39,267. Any money from fundraising is credited to the building and maintenance account.

Income

Planned giving increased slightly by £235, collections decreased slightly by £326. Gift Aid decreased by £568. Income from other sources, Grants and Legacies decreased substantially. Overall giving decreased by £5,433.

Income from fundraising decreased and rent from the mission hall increased. A lot of these decreases I believe are due to the cost-of-living crisis. Thanks go to all who have contributed to the fundraising, especially the Social and Fundraising committee led by Adele.

Overall, our total income reduced from £79,540 to £74,365 a reduction of £10,175. Including the shares sold.

Expenditure.

Clergy and staffing costs were lower, parish share increased,

Church running costs were significantly higher due to higher utility bills, repairs, and maintenance costs, as well as the costs of everything increasing due to high inflation.

Mission Hall running costs were higher for the same reasons.

Overall, our expenses increased from £66,860 to £94,911 an increase of £28,051 however £23,694 of this was due to the quinquennial work.

Future Challenges.

I see this as being the effect of inflation and our ability to keep pace with it. Every year when our own personal income increases, either wage rises or pension income, we need to review what we give to church as the church is feeling the effects of inflation just as we do with our personal lives. In particular at present the costs of energy are being felt in our expenses.

Reserves Policy.

The recommended reserves to be maintained are equivalent to three months payments. If possible, we would like to maintain a balance on our general (unrestricted) fund which would equate to three months payments this includes the money held with CCLA. This would mean we would need to maintain £15,000 to cover emergencies. I am pleased to report that over the last year we managed to just about maintain that amount.

Thank You.

I wish to use this opportunity to thank Joan Hodgson who deals with the collections and day to day banking and also Lynne Arnold who co-ordinates the gift aid keeps records and submits the claim. Without these people my role as treasurer would be significantly more time consuming.

Paul Arnold - Parish Treasurer.

Church Wardens' Fabric Report

Annual checks and servicing complete as well as general repairs and replacements where required.

Stonemason has replaced the eroded stones to the South East side.

New notice board has been erected.

In the children's corner rail replaced with an existing rail.

Industrial guttering to the side entrance has been added, awaiting quote for coping stones to east gable to be re-bedded.

Quiet garden - we would like to say a huge thank you to David Dent who volunteers in maintaining and making the garden a lovely place for everyone to enjoy .

Myself and Ann Sanderson would like to thank the P.C.C. and everyone for their support throughout the year.

Adele Todd Ann Sanderson

Deanery Synod

The parish was represented on the Deanery Synod by Revd Carol Harris, Revd Frances Cooper, Revd Emma Hart, Paul Arnold, Tim Hillary.

There are usually three meetings annually, where various topics are discussed. This year we had speakers on Childrens and young people's ministry by Scripture union. Working with schools in responding to poverty, in particular relating to food waste by Shildon Alive.

We also hear about good news from other parishes, where other parishes share what they are doing and works well.

Other matters passed down from the diocese were discussed e.g. the safeguarding review these were also forwarded on to the parishes for discussion or implementation.

Discussions were ongoing with the Area Dean about the dissolution of Stanhope deanery and the inclusion of some parishes into the Auckland deanery.

Paul Arnold

Deanery Representative.

Messy Church

We still meet on the second Saturday of the month (except August).

Sessions are 2-4 pm. The age of the children seems to have dropped as have the numbers. However, we had an Easter egg hunt on Easter Saturday which was well attended with messy church and toddlers from the toddler group.

We use a story from the bible and all crafts, worship and stories are based on that.

Many thanks to the team who prepare activities, set tables out and clear away at the end. Many thanks also to the catering team

Jane Copland

St. John's Church – Explorers' Group AGM Report 2024

Sunday School happens during our Sunday morning service. We do this in the foyer so the children are able to see what is happening in the service through the large windows and are included in the Peace by waving. Crafts and activities follow alongside with the Gospel Readings.

Becky and I touch on the way the children see God, what he would like them to do and how to translate some of these stories into our modern world. The children take their crafts home and we try to keep one to display on our Sunday School display board.

The children are asked, if they feel comfortable to do so, to go to the front of the Church, after Communion to show Carol, Frances or Emma and the congregation what they have achieved and retell their own understanding of the lesson.

We have seen a significant drop in the amount of children attending. The number of children has been up to 5 but unfortunately so this year most weeks we have no children. Carol, Becky and I are will be having a meeting in the next few months to discuss how we can help address and reach out to more families.

We look forward to our coming year and welcome all children to join us Exploring God.

Anne Cleasby and Becky Callaghan

St John's Toddler Group Report

Looking back over the last year it has been a privilege to walk alongside the adults and children that have attended the Toddler Group and seeing God at work in the relationships that are being built and strengthened and those that are just beginning.

The group has continued to use the structure that was established last year as it seems to be working well, and the children who attended last year know the format and get excited when their favourite part is about to start.

Rather than using a waiting list we have trialled a visitor register this year, which has gone well and will continue. People continue to come via word of mouth and through contact with church mission and ministry.

The services that we hold in church for key liturgical events such as Pentecost, Christmas and Easter have seen an increased number of attendees, which is promising.

The leaders of the group wanted to be able to offer those who attend a variety of sessions and we now offer on rotation a monthly Messy Play, Music and Movement, and a Sensory Session, on a Wednesday morning. They have been very well received, with an appetite for wanting them on a more frequent basis. The equipment used to enable this was purchased via a Diocesan Grant of £500. For which we are very grateful as it has helped us to meet a need here in our community.

It is amazing to see that the numbers of attendees on a weekly basis is similar to last year considering 15 children left us last July due to beginning nursery.

The group regularly has between 10-20 toddlers and babies attending each session. Each paying £1 per family. This has enabled the group to continue to be self-sufficient, purchasing: refreshments, books, gifts, equipment needed for the extra sessions. We currently have a balance of £35.98

The Facebook page has been changed to be a public front, with no personal images of the children. The WhatsApp group is continuing to go strong with relationships between the parents/careers extending beyond the group.

The group is also currently looking at linking with the other Toddler Groups in the area to ensure that all the parents/carers can find and access the support that they need.

After Christmas, Nikki Ross, one of the leaders stepped back from being a leader and is now a helper. Another leader, Jane-Anne Davison, left to enter into paid employment with children. Leaving Gemma Pattison and Reverend Emma Harte-Waters as leaders.

Due to the sense of belonging and passion for the group, the help from those who come has been wonderful to see. Currently Rachel Foster is undergoing the safer recruitment process and is planning on running the group come September. We also have another parent, Katie, who is willing to be formal helper.

Revd. Emma Harte

Youth Group Report

The youth group is still happening! It has been an interesting year, with a number of challenges. One of the highlights was 5 of the young people attending summer camp last year, and one of those completing the Growing Young Leaders course in the diocese. (Also going to see Wonka at the cinema!) Numbers have been low since October and in January we changed to meeting once a fortnight rather than weekly. There are also 2 new adults interested in becoming leaders.

After half term we will be inviting Year 6s to join the group, and linking in to Catherine's school chaplaincy club, and the two older members of the group are going to be taking on some leadership roles in the group.

A huge thanks to Bev and Frances who have helped lead the group through the year.

Andy Harris

Church Flowers

We would like to say a huge thankyou to everyone for their donations you give so generously for the flowers. This ensures us that there are always floral designs in the Church especially at Church festival celebrations and events and throughout the year. We also provide floral arrangements for weddings, and floral tributes for the bereaved in memory of their loved ones.

Adele Todd

Social and fund-raising committee report

On behalf of the social and fund-raising committee I would like to say thankyou to all our volunteers who help to make it such a success.

This year has seen two very successful Fayres, both in the summer and Christmas, when we had lots of stalls with lots of people attending the events.

We have also had our annual Church trip to Skipton with a canal barge ride which everyone thoroughly enjoyed.

February, we had a low bar talent show and pancake party, with a huge range of talented people participating, both young and older, singing, dancing, joke telling and more.

In July we enjoyed a beautiful concert from the Northern Voices where all the proceeds went towards the Church funds.

Unfortunately the social arranged for the vicarage garden in the summer was cancelled twice because of the weather!

Adele Todd

Memory Café

Our aim is for people living with dementia and or are supporting someone living with dementia or memory problems to come along meet new people, share their experiences, or simply have a cuppa and a chat in a relaxed enjoyable environment, and with a variety of activities. We meet ever first Tuesday in the month at Rowan Avenue Community Lounge, Some of the residents from our two nursing homes in the town attend also, thank you to our volunteers that help in making it a relaxed and enjoyable place for the attendees to enjoy.

Adele Todd

Craft and Chat Thursday afternoon group

We meet every other Thursday 1.00-2.30pm. in the Suzanne Cuthbertson Hall. We have covered a number of crafts, at the moment we are doing diamond art coasters, after these are finished we are going to decorate keyrings. Everyone does not do craft they come along and enjoy a chat and a cuppa!

Adele Todd and Ann Sanderson

Bible Study Group Middridge Lane

Our bible study group we meet the second Monday in the month at 4, Middridge Lane. 7pm.

We are a group of 6 when we have been studying Prayer and The Lords Prayer with some interesting discussions.

All our welcome to join our group.

Adele Todd

Bible Study Sunnydale

Our house group meets monthly on the second Tuesday of the month we spend time supporting each other, praying and doing a study of some kind. This past year we have studied using the Prayer Course with 24/7 prayer. We have discussed; how to pray; when to pray and unanswered prayer. The group have found that the way this course was set up was beneficial to them. It wasn't too deep or theological and allowed for us all to grow in our prayer life and understanding. We have a Whats App group in which we share a daily prayer. We are a welcoming group and we have space for two more people to join us. If you would like to find out more have a word with Dorothy or Jane.

Bronwen Coley

Home Communion

At present there is just myself plus clergy taking Home Communion out to church members who are housebound.

It is a blessing to share the Eucharist and the love of our fellow Christians with those no longer able to join us in church.

If you know of anyone who would like to receive Home Communion have a word with Dorothy or Carol.

Dorothy Truby

Care Home Services

We take services once a month at both our local care homes, Redworth House and Holly Lodge Care Home. We sing familiar hymns together, listen to a Bible reading and pray together. The residents, who include church members who can no longer come to church, are always pleased to see us and we have a lovely time worshipping and chatting together.

St John's School

The relationship between St John's School and the Church continues to be very strong. Our PCC governors are Andy Harris (chair), Revd. Carol Harris, Revd. Emma Waters and Paul Arnold. Carol and Emma continue to lead regular collective worship at the school and we have continued to hold whole school services once a term in Church.

In September an exciting development was that Catherine Simpson was appointed as school chaplain and this is her report below..

School Chaplain

PCC Report May 2024

With great enthusiasm, I commenced my role at St John's CE Primary School in September 2023, dedicating one day a week to this amazing opportunity.

Although my role is new for the school, it is, in many ways, the culmination of many years of positive work between the school and the church, and I welcomed the opportunity to build on the strong relationship already in place.

My focus has been on creating relationships and encouraging opportunities for faith exploration and development, the spiritual well-being of staff and pupils, and reaching out to parents and carers. I lead Collective Worship weekly and have run several clubs in school, both at lunchtime and after school. I have

also led some project work and sought to develop existing links with Shildon Alive. More recently, I have also engaged in some one-to-one support with some of our most vulnerable pupils.

I continue to be employed two days a week by the Diocese of Durham, where my remit is to develop school chaplaincy. This role allows me to work at the Diocesan and national church levels, especially around the Growing Faith initiatives, which has meant additional opportunities for the school and church. We hope to engage in the national church 'Flourish project' from September which will allow us to develop our church and school link to a greater degree.

I will shortly complete my three-year master's degree in Mission and Ministry, specialising in Chaplaincy with children and young people with CYM validated by Newman University.

Catherine Simpson

April 24

St. John's Bell ringers

Bellringers continue to meet on a Wednesday evening for practice. At St John's we only have two ringers. I ask people from South Church and Hurworth to come and help so that the bells are used. There is a book called 'The Dove Guide' which people can read to see which church they would like to come to ring at. I am hoping that some of the people that I am teaching will stay at St John's. Unfortunately at present it is not possible to ring the bells on a Sunday morning due to lack of personnel.

Trevor Thompson Tower Captain



Shildon Alive

Shildon Alive has continued to have a massive impact on the lives of so many in the town and we, as a Church, are extremely proud of all it achieves. Trustees who are members of the PCC are Dorothy Truby and Olga Bainbridge. Rev. Frances Cooper is also a trustee alongside Rev. Carol Harris who is the Chair of the charity. Other church members volunteer regularly and support throughout the year. Below is a report from Paula Nelson, the project manager.

2023

Over the last year our Hub has seen a footfall of 2892. Our Community kitchen and takeaway has seen an increase in meals for vulnerable older residents and along with our daily deliveries we ran a pilot over a six month period with Age UK delivering a total of 2688 meals to local vulnerable residents over the age of 55. We have produced 7815 free school meals and this year.

We feed all children who are often hungry and under nourished for free and on a donation basis for adults. We utilise local gardeners produce as well as rescued food in these meals. We also teach children and adults how to grow their own food with the help of local gardeners.

Last year our team ran several gardening and cooking sessions during the school holidays for families and young people and has now developed a young growers' weekly gardening session for carers and toddlers which is well attended.

Our 12 volunteer drivers (these drivers are retired, in work or can't work due to mental health issues) collected 102 tonnes of food surplus this year from businesses and supermarkets. Some of this food goes on our 'Shelves for all' in our community shop where families and individuals of all ages, take a basket, fill it and leave a small donation. We have given 636 baskets for free and 5,824 for a small donation, many families and older residents rely on this valuable lifeline and do most of their weekly shop for a couple of pounds, releasing funds for their utilities. The rescued food is also delivered to schools pop up rescue stalls ran by school children learning about the Journey of food and the impact on the environment, we also share the food with our Food network of several foodbanks and pantries.

We have also developed a partnership with us being lead partner. We deliver fruit eggs and vegetables funded by Bishop Auckland and Shildon AAP and LIVIN to six partner organisations allowing them to feed and cook for families and individuals across Newton Aycliffe, Bishop Auckland, Coundon and West Auckland. This has increased our reach and although we haven't had stats for this project yet we envisage well over 2000 residents living in poverty will have been supported.

Our Advice and support service has been extremely busy this year with our team seeing 1256 clients over the year (our Advice worker has distributed £25,000 of Household support fund grant funding to individuals). These items vary from fridge freezers, electric radiators, bedding and air fryers. If an individual accesses the food crisis support, we show them the Shelves for all whilst we are getting their cupboard store items. They get all their bread and fresh fruit and vegetables using a token, then we encourage them to come back and use the shelves on a regular basis, explaining the advantage to the environment as well as their budget. We have noticed that it helps them to remain calm and not get as upset about asking for help, it has also made a marked impact on repeat food crisis need.

After listening to young people at community events recently, our Food Coordinator and our engagement officer have been running cooking workshops with children in the area. These include making alternatives to the children's favourite takeaway, making smoothies utilising rescued fruit, learning knife safety and using our new smoothie bike to 'pedal' their smoothie smooth!

I would like to say 'thank you' to so many people at Saint John's Church for their continued support throughout the year with regular food donations, practical support and financial support.

The harvest festival in October was a wonderful celebration of Shildon Alive in Church. The harvest collection totalled an impressive 1550 items which was a celebration of giving across the community including all three primary schools.

Paula Nelson, April 2024

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, SHILDON
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Fund	RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT Unrestricted Designated Fund	Restricted Fund	Endowment Fund	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
		£	£	£	£	£	£
RECEIPTS							
<u>Voluntary Receipts:</u>							
Planned Giving		17,117	-	-	-	17,117	16,882
Collections		5,428	25	181	-	5,634	5,960
Gift Aid Recovered		4,668	-	-	-	4,668	5,236
All Other Giving/Voluntary	1	557	2,341	3,779	-	6,677	11,451
		27,770	2,366	3,960	-	34,096	39,529
<u>Activities for Generating Funds</u>							
	2	704	4,230	-	-	4,934	6,230
<u>Investment Income</u>							
	3	17,281	-	-	-	17,281	14,857
<u>Church Activities:</u>							
Income from Trading	4	20	228	-	-	248	442
Other Receipts	5	12,806	-	-	-	12,806	18,482
C of E Investment Fund Shares sold		5,000	-	-	-	5,000	
		17,826	228	-	-	18,054	18,924
Total Receipts		63,581	6,824	3,960	-	74,365	79,540
PAYMENTS							
<u>Church Activities:</u>							
Parish Share		36,000	-	-	-	36,000	33,657
Clergy and Staffing Costs	6	2,007	-	-	-	2,007	2,754
Church Running Expenses	7	20,679	21,842	185	-	42,706	22,154
Hall Running Costs	8	8,643	268	-	-	8,911	6,399
Mission Giving and Donations	9	828	2,568	1,689	-	5,085	1,740
Costs of Trading	10	202	-	-	-	202	156
<u>Asset & Investment Purchases:</u>							
C of E Investment Fund Shares		-	-	-	-	-	20,000
		68,359	24,678	1,874	-	94,911	86,860
<u>Cost of Generating Funds</u>		5,187	-	-	-	5,187	7,710
<u>Governance Costs</u>		109	-	-	-	109	100
Total Payments		73,655	24,678	1,874	-	100,207	94,670
Excess of Receipts over Payments		(10,074)	(17,854)	2,086	-	(25,842)	(15,130)
Transfers between funds		2,304	(2,304)	-	-	-	-
Cash at Bank and in Hand 1 Jan		7,941	38,218	3,023	-	49,182	64,312
Cash at Bank and in Hand 31 Dec		171	18,060	5,109	-	23,340	49,182

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, SHILDON
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

	Note	Unrestricted Fund £	Unrestricted Designated Fund £	Restricted Fund £	Endowment Fund £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Receipts							
<u>All Other Giving/Voluntary Receipts</u>	1						
Donations, appeals etc.		557	273	532	-	1,362	7,143
Grants		-	2,068	3,247	-	5,315	4,308
		557	2,341	3,779	-	6,677	11,451
<u>Activities for Generating Funds</u>	2						
Summer Fayre		110	1,246	-	-	1,356	1,616
Winter Fayre		-	1,850	-	-	1,850	1,782
Church Trip		425	-	-	-	425	1,321
Concert		-	420	-	-	420	-
Quiz		-	-	-	-	-	171
Beetle Drive		-	-	-	-	-	127
Easy Fundraising		41	-	-	-	41	-
Other Events		-	-	-	-	-	97
Tea & Coffee/Coffee Mornings		128	714	-	-	842	1,116
		704	4,230	-	-	4,934	6,230
<u>Investment Income</u>	3						
Rent from Mission Hall		16,058	-	-	-	16,058	14,580
Bank Interest		-	-	-	-	-	169
Dividend		1,223	-	-	-	1,223	108
		17,281	-	-	-	17,281	14,857
<u>Income from Trading</u>	4						
Hall Rents		20	228	-	-	248	442
		20	228	-	-	248	442
<u>Other Receipts</u>	5						
Receipts for Weddings & Funerals		12,806	-	-	-	12,806	18,482
		12,806	-	-	-	12,806	18,482

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, SHILDON
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

	Note	Unrestricted Fund £	Unrestricted Designated Fund £	Restricted Fund £	Endowment Fund £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
<u>Expenses</u>							
<u>Clergy & Staffing Costs</u>	6						
Vicarage Expenses		426	-	-	-	426	318
Working Expenses of Clergy		1,387	-	-	-	1,387	947
Visiting Clergy Fees		-	-	-	-	-	392
Vergers' Fees		175	-	-	-	175	1,020
Youth Work Expenses		19	-	-	-	19	77
		2,007	-	-	-	2,007	2,754
<u>Church Running Expenses</u>	7						
Light & Heat		10,911	-	-	-	10,911	7,935
Insurance		4,345	-	-	-	4,345	4,680
Repairs & Maintenance		1,874	21,820	-	-	23,694	5,801
Water Rates		465	-	-	-	465	105
Cleaning		1,487	-	-	-	1,487	1,460
Upkeep of Services		1,180	-	185	-	1,365	1,650
Post Stationery & Admin Costs		417	22	-	-	439	523
Parish Training & Mission		-	-	-	-	-	-
		20,679	21,842	185	-	42,706	22,154
<u>Hall Running Costs</u>	8						
Light & Heat		5,919	-	-	-	5,919	4,486
Insurance		1,164	-	-	-	1,164	1,089
Repairs & Maintenance		996	268	-	-	1,264	278
Water Rates		564	-	-	-	564	546
		8,643	268	-	-	8,911	6,399
<u>Missionary Giving & Donations</u>	9						
Other Donations to Charities		277	-	189	-	466	542
Community Garden		40	-	-	-	40	40
Other Mission Expenses		382	2,568	1,500	-	4,450	1,110
Other Gifts & Donations		129	-	-	-	129	48
		828	2,568	1,689	-	5,085	1,740

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, SHILDON
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

Costs of Trading

Licences & Other Expenses

10

202	-	-	-	202	156
202	-	-	-	202	156

Costs of Generating Funds

Assigned Fees for Weddings & Funerals

Cost of Fayres, Kitchen etc

11

5,187	-	-	-	5,187	6,427
-	-	-	-	-	1,283
5,187	-	-	-	5,187	7,710

Governance Costs

Independent Examination Costs

12

109	-	-	-	109	100
109	-	-	-	109	100

**Movements in Restricted
& Designated Funds**

13

	Bal b/f £	Restricted Receipts £	Designated Receipts £	Restricted Payments £	Designated Payments £	Transfers £	Bal c/f £
Charity Donations	-	322	-	189	-	-	133
Flower Fund	-	185	-	185	-	-	-
Knit & Knatter	431	-	-	-	-	-	431
Upkeep and Maintenance	15,719	1,747	6,771	-	20,950	(2,304)	983
Bellringers	3,836	-	-	-	1,093	-	2,743
Youth Workers Wages	15,661	1,000	-	1,500	1,000	-	14,161
Youth Group	1,198	20	-	-	574	-	644
Youth Assistant	2,339	-	-	-	-	-	2,339
Youth Gardening	898	-	-	-	108	-	790
Messy Church	772	586	53	-	665	-	746
Memory Café	387	100	-	-	288	-	199
Community Project							
	41,241	3,960	6,824	1,874	24,678	(2,304)	23,169
Restricted	3023						5109
Designated	38218						18060
	41,241						23,169

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, SHILDON
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

Monetary Assets

	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u> £	<u>Designated Funds</u> £	<u>Restricted Funds</u> £	<u>2023</u> £	<u>Totals</u> <u>2022</u> £
Bank Current Account	53	1,560	5,109	6,722	31,182
C of E Reserve Fund	-	16,500	-	16,500	18,000
Cash in Hand	118	-	-	118	-
	<u>171</u>	<u>18,060</u>	<u>5,109</u>	<u>23,340</u>	<u>49,182</u>

Other Assets

	<u>Fund to which asset belongs</u>
CBF Church of England Investment Fund Income Shares 700.17 Units (Valuation as at 29/12/2023 £15827.55)	Designated

Accounts

Saint John's Church, Shildon

Annual Report April 2022– April 2023



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Administrative Information

St John's Church is situated on Church St, Shildon. It is part of the Diocese of Durham within the Church of England. The correspondence address is St John's Vicarage, 1A Burnie Gardens, Shildon, County Durham, DL4 1ND.

Parish Organisation

Priest in Charge: Revd. Carol Harris

St John's Vicarage, 1A Burnie Gardens, Shildon, DL4 1ND

01388 778998 carol@shildonparish.org.uk

Assistant Minister: Revd. Frances Cooper

frances.cooper@durham.anglican.org

Assistant Curate: Revd. Emma Harte

Emma.harte@durham.anglican.org

The PCC of St. John's Church, Shildon, has the responsibility for co-operating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

The PCC is a charity registered with the Charity Commission. Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected by the annual parochial church meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

During the year the following served as members of the PCC:

Church Wardens:	Mrs A Sanderson (elected 2021)) Mrs A. Todd (elected 2020)
Lay Chair:	Mrs A Todd
Treasurer:	Mr. P. Arnold
Secretary:	Mrs D. Truby
Deputy churchwarden:	Mr C. Bennett
	Mrs L. Arnold (Gift Aid Co Ordinator) Mrs. O. Bainbridge Mrs A. Cleasby (Safeguarding Officer) Mr. I. Cooper Ms. J. Copland Mr A. Harris Mr. T. Hillary Ms. B Walker
Deanery Synod Reps:	Mr P. Arnold and Mr. C Bennett

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Clergy Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishops' Guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.)

Report on the electoral roll

The number on the revised electoral roll for 2023 has gone down by 25 people to a total of 68.

The electoral roll officer is Mrs Mary Harrison.

Minister's Report April 2022 – April 2023

Reading through my report from last year as I prepared for this year made me realise how a year ago we were just emerging out of covid restrictions and starting back. That world of masks and restrictions today seems many years ago and this year it has been wonderful to be able to open out and move forward.

Thank you to everyone who has served on the PCC this year, to Adele and Ann our churchwardens who have worked tirelessly through the year, to Paul our treasurer, to Dorothy our secretary and to everyone who has served the church this year whether they are on the PCC or not. There are so many people who work together to serve the church some seen some unseen – thank you to everyone for all you do.

On our PCC vision evening back in August we looked together at the John 15 passage where Jesus describes himself as the vine and us all as the branches. We are one branch as St John's Church here in Shildon and we were reminded in the passage that we abide in Jesus, his life flows through us and apart from him we can do nothing. We all are followers of Christ and he has called us each individually and us all together as his church, the people of God, to abide in him and to shine out his love, his light, his hope and his peace here in Shildon and the surrounding area as we worship together, as we proclaim Jesus in word and deed and as we look out and serve our local community.

We looked again at the priorities we set the previous year and saw how these all fitted into this picture of the vine and Jesus' life flowing through us. Having priorities helps to shape who we are as a church and where we choose to invest our energy and time.

The priorities we have are church growth, both in numbers in the congregation and in discipleship with a particular emphasis on seeing a diverse range of ages represented in the church congregation. The second is to focus on children and young people and how we can engage with this group in more depth and the third is to continue with the priority of engaging with and serving our local community with a particular emphasis on continuing to work with and support our church project Shildon Alive.

As I look back over this year that has gone I can see how we have seen some growth and fruitfulness in each of these areas and I can see how God has been working in our midst. There have been many highlights and encouragements in the year and much to give thanks for within our church community and the wider community. I have listed some below but it is not an exhaustive list -

- Emma's ordination in July and her joining us here as an Assistant Curate. It has been great to have Emma join us as part of our ministry team and we look forward to her priesting at the start of July at Durham Cathedral. It is so good to have such a strong ministry team of Frances, Emma, Andy and myself.
- The Bishops' Prayer walk through Shildon and the deanery confirmation service in May. It was lovely to see 5 adults and 1 young person from Shildon being confirmed and lovely to see most of them continuing as members of our church family worshipping with us regularly.
- The start of the youth group in July which is going strong with 10 young people and 4 adult leaders.
- The start of the toddler group in May. Lots of families attend this, there is actually a waiting list, Emma is doing well leading the group alongside Gemma and other parents. It was lovely to see the services held in church with the toddlers at Christmas and Easter.
- The start of the craft club on a Thursday afternoon enjoyed by a good number of people.
- Really successful Christmas and Summer Fairs as well as socials. Thanks to the social and fundraising team for all their hard work. Particular highlights were the day out to Whitby and the all age talent show/ pancake party.
- New faces in church – it has been lovely to see new people this year in our services.

- Gareth Gladman being with us on a six month placement. It was great to have Gareth with us in the six months leading up to his ordination, he brought much richness and insight in the ministry he shared with us.
- Messy Church. This continues to go well, such lovely afternoons with so many families altogether focusing on a Bible story with songs and prayers and then crafts which fit with the story followed by tea. A recent highlight was the easter egg hunt in the vicarage garden on Easter Saturday. Thanks to all the messy church team for their continuing commitment, time, energy and prayer.
- The return of housegroups meeting monthly. If you would like to join a housegroup please see the list at the back of church. Also the lent course meeting weekly through Lent watching episodes of 'The Chosen.'
- Being able to have our first 'normal' Christmas in church in three years!
- Seeing the transformation in the church building with all the painting work completed! Adele and Ann, our churchwardens, have organised and overseen a lot of work on the church building this year including roof repairs, window repairs, stonework and all the decorating.
- The amazing work that Shildon Alive continue to do in the community and the difference they make to the lives of so many in our town. Please see report.
- Returning to regular termly St John's School services in church with the whole school. It is amazing to hear all the children singing and so special to worship all together here in church.
- Returning to a pattern of being able to lead regular Collective Worship in St John's School and go into school a lot more regularly.
- First Sunday services – it is always a highlight to listen to the faith stories of those brave enough to share with us their journey and to worship together and have space for prayer.
- Memory Café – hearing how this has been re established by the team and making such a positive difference to those who attend.
- Uniformed organisations – continued strong relationships with our uniformed organisations. It was lovely to have a Christingle service at Christmas for the guides, brownies and rainbows and we really appreciated all the help from the scouts and cubs at the two church fairs.
- Zoom evening prayer – it has been lovely to continue to share evening prayer on Zoom with a small number of people including some of whom are not physically able to attend services.
- The pastoral team who continue to take Communion out to housebound members of the church – thank you to the team for all they do.
- Continued ministry with many in our community through baptisms, funerals and weddings – each of which is such a privilege to be part of, whether a joyful or a very difficult, sad time in the lives of those involved

Looking back you can see God at work in so many ways in and through our church community! You can see how as we continue to abide in Jesus his life is flowing through each of us and we are producing fruit.

Thank you to everyone for all your prayer, commitment and hard work in the year that has gone and let us look forward to where God is leading us in the year to come! I finish with a verse from Ephesians –

'Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations for ever and ever! Amen'

Rev. Carol Harris – April 2023

PCC Secretary's report.

It is good to report that we are now receiving all services in our church building.

We held 7 PCC meetings, with good attendance at all plus in August we had an evening reflecting on and praying about the vision of the church.

Messy church is now an established Saturday afternoon activity, which is held once a month, on the second Saturday. We plan our sessions on stories from the bible and of course Church celebrations such as Christmas, Christingle and Easter. The children enjoy the stories and activities plus the tea to round off the afternoon. We have a steady group of volunteers that prepare and deliver the activities. Special thanks must go to Barbara who makes the sandwiches etc for tea time.

Our First Sunday evening services have continued this year which have contemporary music and a guest speaker to talk of their faith journey. These have been well attended by members of the congregation and also those who do not usually attend more formal forms of worship.

During October we had our church outing to Whitby via a steam train ride from Grosmont to Whitby. The trip was not without its hitches. The coach driver had been given the wrong start time and when we did reach the station and got going the train actually ran out of steam. Never the less we all had a lovely day. Well done the fundraising committee.

Our Alpha course was very successful and this has resulted in the re-establishing of House Groups.

In July we welcomed Emma Harte who has become our curate for three and a half years. Emma has joined our congregation with zeal and has joined in with many of the church's activities.

We also welcomed Gareth Gladman who is studying at Lindisfarne R.T.P. on placement before preparing for ordination. We wish him well with his studies and future.

Carl Bennett left St John's Church to worship elsewhere and so left the PCC and he had also been a Deanery Synod rep. We thank him for his contribution to St. John's church.

We welcomed Ian Cooper and Beverly Walker as new members of the PCC.

It has been a very busy year at our church, with lots of services and activities.

Dorothy Truby - PCC Secretary

Treasurers Report

Financial Review for Parish AGM 10th May 2023.

Annual Financial statements and accounts for the year ended 31/12/2022.

These have been circulated for your perusal. It should be noted that we ended the year in debit by £15,130. This was due to the PCC agreeing to investing the reserves of £20,000 into the Church of England investment fund with CCLA Fund Managers, to increase the returns from this money. This was decided before the interest rate rises we have seen since October 2022. These are shown on the last page of the accounts.

Taking this into account we actually ended the year in credit of £4,870. Most of this was due to a grant provided by the church commissioners of £4,308 towards our energy costs. The general account was in deficit, but the excess in the building and maintenance account meant overall we had more income than expenses. Any money from fundraising is credited to the building and maintenance account.

Income

Planned giving decreased, collections increased. Gift Aid decreased as planned giving decreased. Income from other sources, Grants and Legacies increased substantially.

Income from fundraising increased substantially and rent from the mission hall increased. A lot of these increases are due to recovery from coronavirus lockdowns, activities recommencing and weddings resuming etc. Thanks go to all who have contributed to the fundraising, especially the Social and Fundraising committee led by Adele.

Expenditure.

Clergy and staffing costs were slightly higher.

Church running costs were significantly higher due to higher utility bills, repairs and maintenance costs, as well as the costs of everything increasing due to high inflation.

Mission Hall running costs were higher for the same reasons.

Future Challenges.

I see this as being the effect of inflation and our ability to keep pace with it. Every year when our own personal income increases, either wage rises or pension income, we need to review what we give to church as the church is feeling the effects of inflation just as we do with our personal lives. In particular at present the costs of energy are being felt in our expenses.

The work required as identified in the quinquennial report is also going to continue to need a lot of financial support.

Reserves Policy.

The recommended reserves to be maintained are equivalent to three months payments. If possible, we would like to maintain a balance on our general (unrestricted) fund which would equate to three months payments. This would mean we would need to maintain £15,000 to cover emergencies. I am pleased to report that over the last year we managed to just about maintain that amount.

Thank You.

I wish to use this opportunity to thank Joan Hodgson who deals with the collections and day to day banking and also Lynne Arnold who co-ordinates the gift aid keeps records and submits the claim. Without these people my role as treasurer would be significantly more time consuming.

Paul Arnold - Parish Treasurer.
Church Wardens' Fabric Report

Annual checks and servicing complete as well as general repairs and replacements where required.

Quinquennial Report

This year has seen major work completed re-recommendations from the report.

All glazing to windows has been completed, remedial work to tower, lighting conductor affixed to the tower, woodworm treated in bell tower, and the ground floor decorated following the completion of the roof repairs.

Awaiting stonemason to complete work to several eroded stones to the south east of the Church, except for this all work has been completed well within the time scale requirements.

Quiet Garden

A huge thankyou to David Dent who has volunteered to maintain the quiet garden, maintaining the lawns and borders for everyone to enjoy, with the Guides and the Brownies upkeeping their Nature Garden area.

We would like to thank the P.C.C. and the congregation for their support throughout the year.

Adele Todd

Ann Sanderson

Deanery Synod

The parish was represented on the Deanery Synod by Revd Carol Harris, Revd Frances Cooper, Revd Emma Hart, Paul Arnold, Carl Bennet.

There are usually three meetings annually, where various topics are discussed. This year we had speakers on Caring for the environment, Christians against poverty, and diocesan youth work.

We also hear about good news from other parishes, where other parishes share what they are doing and works well.

This year we had a deanery prayer walk where Bishop Paul and Bishop Sarah accompanied by the bishop's chaplain walked around various parts of the deanery. For our part in which I had a large part organising, the party were met at Spout Lane where they walked up from Aycliffe Parish. The route then took them to Shildon Alive where they were provided with lunch. They visited St. Johns School and walked back to Shildon Alive before walking to the gates of Hackworth Park.

They were met by the mayor and representatives of the Town Council. The council people took them on a tour of the park, where they stopped at various places and prayed for people. Then the proceeded to Locomotion where we were given a tour accompanied by Anthony Coulls the curator.

Following some refreshments provided by Locomotion the party then went to the monument where the very first passenger train left from and visited the original rail lines. The walk then finished with a meal in Cape to Cairo.

The following Sunday we hosted a Deanery confirmation service attended by the party who shared with us all the places they had visited in the deanery and the people they had met.

I am volunteering to continue as elected deanery representative and Tim Hillary is also volunteering, this will be voted upon at the annual meeting.

Paul Arnold

Deanery Representative.

Messy Church

Messy church continues to thrive. We meet once a month on the second Saturday (except August).

The sessions last for two hours from 2pm until 4pm, and welcome children of all ages.

With hospitality and creativity at the heart of Messy church, our stories and songs are Christ centred and the crafts chosen echo this. The children are certainly engaged during the sessions.

Our Christmas and Easter sessions were very popular. This year we held an Easter egg hunt in the vicarage garden. The children were tasked with finding letters hidden around the garden, which were then arranged into a sentence from the bible relating to the Risen lord. The children were then rewarded with an easter egg. Following on from the activity the families enjoyed cakes, juice and tea on a lovely sunny day.

With many thanks to the adults who prepare the activities, set out the tables and clear away afterwards. Many thanks also to the catering team who make the tea which is shared by all at the end of the session.

**Jane Copland
Dorothy Truby**

St. John's Church – Explorers' Group AGM Report 2023

Sunday Schooll happens during our Sunday morning service from 10.15am t0 10.45am. We do this in the foyer so the children are able to see what is happening in the service through the large windows and are included in the peace waving.

Crafts and activities follow alongside with the Gospel Readings.

Becky and I touch on the way the children see God, what he would like them to do and how to translate some of these stories into our modern world. The children take their crafts home and we try to keep one to display on our Sunday School display board.

The children are asked, if they feel comfortable to do so, to go to the front of the Church, after Communion to show Carol, Frances or Emma and the congregation what they have achieved and retell their own understanding of the lesson.

The number of children in our Group varies every Sunday morning from 1 up to 6 (approx). We look forward to our coming year and welcome all children to join us Exploring God.

Anne Cleasby and Becky Callaghan

St John's Toddler Group Report

The toddler group which had been ran by Byerley Road Pre School once a week in termtime stopped due to Covid and the preschool did not want to continue when the group could restart.

Various mums at Messy Church were keen to be part of a new group and volunteered to help run a new group. We started on the 28th April. It is held on a Thursday morning from 9.15am to 10.30am during term time. The pre school very kindly donated the toys that were in the cupboards.

After Emma was ordained she took up leading the group alongside those who were already there. She writes -

‘This last year has been one of change and growth but one where God has been at the centre of it all.

Reverend Emma Harte-Waters became a group leader alongside Shannon Bennett and Gemma Pattison in August 2022. At the time there was little structure to the group. After discussions with the team leaders and the parents/carers, a loose structure was established: welcome, stay&play, refreshments with a story (which alternates between secular and Christian) followed by songs and ending with a blessing and bubbles. The registration process was updated along with the keeping of financial/data records.

In the October Shannon Bennett left as a leader. In December the group held their first nativity service and in April held their first easter service, both in church. They were able to gift the children a nativity and easter story book respectively.

The group is going from strength to strength, there is a waiting list, of 5, despite several children leaving to attend nursery. People come to the group through recommendation from other parents and through contact with church ministry and mission.

There are regularly 15-20 toddlers attending each session. Paying £1 per family. This has enabled the group to be self-sufficient: purchase gifts, arts and crafts for messy play, refreshments and equipment needed for the group. We currently have a balance of £84.50.

A new graphic, in consultation, was designed for the group. The graphic, can be seen on everything related to the group and is printed on hoodies/t-shirts for the leaders. The purpose of this is to help build recognition and a sense of belonging/ownership of the group.

The display board has been utilised and displays the children’s work. There is a private Facebook page and WhatsApp group to enable the parents/carers to communicate, build and deepen relationships with one another.

Due to a sense of belonging and passion for the group three parents have come forward to be group leaders and are currently undergoing the safer recruitment process.’

Revd. Emma Harte

Youth Group Report

Last July we started a youth group! Carol and I had been into St John’s School to deliver an Admission to Communion course and invitations were given to Year 6s, and from here we now have a regular group of between 6 and 8 young people who meet every Monday night during term-time. We have a very committed group of leaders: Revd Frances, Bev Walker, Chris Barnes and myself. Every week we have games, challenges or other activities, eat food and have the opportunity to learn about the Christian faith together. Some of the highlights have included attending The Pulse youth event at Durham Cathedral, smoothie-making bikes with Tracey from Shildon Alive, a bowling trip to Planet Leisure and taking part in the Pancake Party and Talent Show.

We hope to invite current year 6s to join the group after half term.

Andy Harris

Eco Church report for St John's Church AGM

In May last year we set up a small working group to think about how as a church we could reduce our carbon footprint and be more environmentally aware. The group consisted of Elise, Dorothy, Ian and myself and we met a number of times to work through the Eco Church survey, with help from Paul and our church wardens. The questions related to our energy use as a church, use of church land (ie the Quiet Garden), our church projects (like saving waste food in Shildon Alive) and encouraging church members to think about lifestyle decisions. You might have noticed the regular monthly eco tips on the service sheet!

We have been awarded the Eco Church Bronze Award, which Archdeacon Rick Simpson presented to Elise at the Harvest Service. Tim very generously purchased the Eco Church award plaque for displaying this.

The challenge is to keep thinking about ways to have a positive impact on our environment and community.

Andy Harris

Church Flowers

We would like to say a huge thankyou to everyone for their donations you give so generously for the flowers. This ensures us that there are always floral designs in the Church especially at Church festival celebrations and events and throughout the year. We also provide floral arrangements for weddings, and floral tributes for the bereaved in memory of their loved ones.

Adele Todd

Social and fund-raising committee report

On behalf of the social and fund-raising committee I would like to say thankyou to all our volunteers who help to make it such a success.

This year has seen two very successful Fayres, both in the summer and Christmas, when we had lots of stalls with lots of people attending the events.

We have also had our annual Church trip to Pickering with a steam train journey which everyone thoroughly enjoyed.

October was a pie and pea supper with a quiz.

February, we had a low bar talent show and pancake party, with a huge range of talented people participating, both young and older, singing, dancing, joke telling and more.

We continue to host our Saturday morning monthly coffee mornings, which is a chance for the people in our town to meet up chat and enjoy a cuppa and home baking, and again a huge thankyou to our volunteers and Bakers.

Adele Todd

Craft and Chat Thursday afternoon group

We meet every other week on Thursday, 1.00 - 2.30, upstairs in church in the Susanne Cuthbertson Hall. We have covered a number of crafts, flower arranging, card making, marzipan modelling, Stone and glass painting, to name a few.

You do not have to be crafty people! Just come along for a cuppa and a chat. New members welcome, our next meeting after the AGM is 11th May.

Adele Todd and Ann Sanderson

Memory Café

Our aim is for people living with dementia and or are supporting someone living with dementia or memory problems to come along meet new people, share their experiences, or simply have a cuppa and a chat in a relaxed enjoyable environment, and with a variety of activities.

After two years in lockdown with the Covid Pandemic and the restrictions we were finally able to open, since opening again we have had a range of activities, which all our attendees especially the residents from Holly Lodge enjoy.

Adele Todd

Home Communion

We have a small team of dedicated ladies who are willing to bring communion to those of our church family who are no longer fit and well enough to attend church.

At present four ladies undertake to do this once a month. If you know of a church member who would like a visit, or if you are considering joining the team, please contact one of our priests.

It is a blessing to share the Eucharist and the love of our fellow /Christians with those no longer able to join us in church.

Thank you for blessing others Dorothy, Olga and Mary.

Barbara Hall

St. John's Bell ringers

2022 saw us start to be able to ring more readily as restrictions were lifted. We still have hand sanitising for anyone who wishes to use it.

We have rung for a few weddings and a couple of school services. Unfortunately at the moment Sunday morning ringing isn't possible as we need a minimum of 3 ringers and as most of our ringers are from out of the town and involved in other towers we haven't been able to ring. Some of our young ringers have come back to ringing but like to have a lie in on a Sunday morning!

Our grateful thanks must go to Mike Hodgson from Hurworth for his unending patience with us along with the other regular Hurworth ringers Phil, and Brenda, who come along to assist and encourage each Wednesday to give support and help with teaching our new ringers and the rest of us to move forward and try different ringing methods. We have also been able to welcome two ringers who have recently moved to Hamsterly and come along as and when they can.

We continue to enjoy being part of the Summer and Christmas fayre, and selling jams etc to help with the upkeep of the bells. We have had a couple of visiting towers this year and have hosted a training session for those who want to learn to call changes and Bobs in method ringing.

We meet on a Wednesday evening from 7pm until 9pm in the bell tower with a short break around 8pm for coffee and a cake or biscuit. Ringing is for age 10 years and upwards. If you would like to come along contact Trevor on 07533311250 or meet in the foyer at 6:50pm on a Wednesday.

Trevor Thompson Tower Captain

Shildon St John's Rainbows and Brownies

Well, we have had a busy year. Back in March 2022, a Division Day was held at The Hub in Barnard Castle, where the girls took part in making twists and dampers on a large open fire pit, they used the high ropes, did archery as well as canoeing, yes even the Rainbows took part in these activities. In May Rainbows had a challenge of building a structure from straws, sturdy enough to hold a cup of water, and of course they did it and no one got wet. We held many promise activities, from racing games to baking, with several Rainbows and Brownies making their promises. As part of one of the themes we have to complete, Brownies had to hold a fashion parade with their creations being made from recycled paper and coloured plastic bags; many of the creations would have been worthy of the London Fashion Week Awards. In June Shildon Brownies joined with St Helen Auckland Brownies to go to an event at Waddow Hall in Clitheroe, named Magic an Mayhem. The girls took part in a variety of circus themed activities, with them sleeping in a big top with 700 Brownies from all over the country. The day time was magic, with the night time as you can imagine was the mayhem. The girls also enjoyed many weekends away at the Guide Camp Site on Raby Estates, building dens, making fires, cooking on trangia stoves and toasting marshmallows over BBQ's. The guide leaders got in on the act when we held the lighting of the Beacon for the Queen. What a glorious site that was, when we looked around the area, we made out 18 other Beacons

2nd Shildon Guides and Rangers

It all seems so long ago now, but the start of 2022 began with an increase of Covid cases and we were not able to meet indoors in January. The infection numbers went back down again and we were able to meet up and from then we have been able to restart our Guiding programme in the same way it was before Covid. Following the covid restrictions our group numbers reduced but they are building back up.

We applied successfully for a grant from County Durham Foundation and then enabled us to buy outdoor cooking equipment and to replace our older tents, which meant we could plan more camping trips and outdoor activities.

Thank you to the Church for supporting us with our Thinking Day celebrations in February and including us to lead part of a Church service.

With the new cooking equipment the Guides and Rangers took part in a Guiding Outdoor cooking competition. For which they spent 6 weeks planning and practicing their cooking skills, everyone had a fab time and one of our teams won.

We went camping in May and the theme was codes and signals. We planned activities using morse code, sign language, semaphore, map references and number cyphers. It was a lot of fun cracking the codes and finding hidden treasure, which was edible.

In the warmer weather, we continued to look after our wildlife area in the Church garden and even saw a frog living there.

In October we stayed for the weekend in Barnard Castle and the theme was faith, trust and pixie dust, which including activities on self-confidence and team building in fun ways.

Throughout the year in the weekly meetings we completed activities that are part of the Guiding programme and we worked towards badges on the topics of 'know myself, express myself and have adventures.'

At Christmas we took part in a very special Christingle service in Church for the Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers.

We are looking to build on this in 2023, with even more plans.

Report from Howden le Wear WI at Shildon

Howden le Wear WI at Shildon has continued to be a successful, albeit small, Women's Institute.

It was decided, via a vote from Members, to try an alternative venue for our Meetings. We have been holding our recent Meetings at West Close Community Lounge in Shildon. However, after discussion it was voted to return to St John's Church in Shildon to hold our Monthly Meetings. We anticipate this will take place in the near future.

Our Guest Speakers are interesting and varied and members appreciate the hard work and dedication of our Committee.

It is anticipated that numbers will continue to be steady and therefore ensure the continuity of Howden le Wear WI at Shildon.

We would like to thank both venues for always being cooperative.

Barbara Coia Secretary



Shildon Alive Annual Project Update

One of our greatest achievements at Shildon Alive is our volunteers of all ages, we have the privilege of watching grow and develop new skills for life, reuse forgotten skills, as grow in confidence. Many often begin with extremely low esteem, anxiety, and depression.

Comments such as, 'I will never be able to do that' are common.

They work with our passionate, caring team and they start blossom.

This lovely young man in the picture, started as a very shy volunteer with no confidence in himself or his ability and he our apprentice chef and runs his own team of volunteers learning needs!

The catering team, with, our amazing Senior Food Coordinator at the helm are at the heart of Shildon Alive.

hope this lovely lad is the first of many to get the opportunity to train at Darlington College and work alongside us to support our community. The team have also been working with Public Health England and have completed a HOT takeaway award. The kitchen and takeaway can be a challenging environment to work in, but his growing confidence allows him to take the lead. What a difference a year can make! He has grown so much, he can manage a team of volunteers with learning needs to run the HOT takeaway, feeding as many as 400 heads in a day.



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We currently have eleven dedicated volunteer drivers and one amazing employed driver who collect food surplus from supermarkets, wholesalers and local businesses, we are also members of 'Fareshare Go' and get weekly deliveries of food surplus from this project. The food we get is displayed in the community fridge and shelves as you first walk into the shop on the left, we encourage people to take a basket, fill it and leave a donation at the checkout. This is for everyone in the community and helps to prevent food waste as well as make the hub an easier, inclusive space. Over the last year of collecting, we have redistributed a staggering 60 tonnes of food which was destined for landfill whilst helping families and individuals reduce their shopping bills and access fresh fruit and vegetables.

The takeaway offers a paid menu, meals on wheels, a free menu for vulnerable families and individuals and free meals for school age children throughout the year. This makes the takeaway and shop a busy, inclusive 'space for all' and works well in our town.

Workshops and life skills:



As a trusted Community Anchor Organisation we have become well known and popular for our free workshops for people of all ages. They are always fully booked with a waiting list, the feedback is just wonderful.

One lady who joined a six-week course of adult sessions, explained to Tracy that it was the first time she had done anything away from her home for a number of years. She felt safe with our team, not judged, and included.

One young lad commented, *'my mam never lets me use a sharp knife, I am going to show her, I can use one safely,'* he proudly demonstrated his bridge hand to his mam when she came to collect him!

Our Community development worker has been all three of our local primary schools and a centre with learning needs and has developed and workshop, teaching them about the journey of food impact of food waste on the environment. All four get weekly deliveries of rescued food from Shildon they offer to their families and their community on own pop-up rescue stalls. As well as learning skills they help their families and their community affordable, rescued fruit, vegetables and cupboard teachers, pupils, carers, and parents have on the positive impact of this project on their lives community.

The young people designed their own pop-up stall this is Ruby, one of the winners with her fantastic



working with for adults delivered a and the venues now Alive which their very valuable with staples. The commented and the

poster and design!

Advocacy support:

Our Advocacy support service is well known in the area, having an excellent reputation, the team offer support with benefit claims and enquiries, housing issues, digital skills, food crisis (we offer a 3-4 day crisis food parcel) and small grants for household goods, rent arrears or utilities. Our team of staff and volunteers are part of the Advice in County Durham network and take full advantage of the training offered by them to keep our knowledge and connections to partner services up to date.

Sophie and her team of Social Workers in Shildon commented:

'Hi I am just writing this email to provide some feedback regarding the Shildon Alive service. I am a Social Worker covering the Shildon area within my work and I must say that Shildon would be lost without the support that is offered from the Shildon Alive service. I don't only speak for myself when I say that the service is a 'god send' to the community and we often use it ourselves as practitioners to access fresh, healthy food produce for our families. We find that the quality of food and the quality of the service provided is far beyond expectations and completely different to the service received at other food banks. I wouldn't hesitate to use Shildon Alive myself if I ever found myself to be in a difficult or vulnerable situation. The staff are all welcoming and offer a wide range of different support. The Social Workers in my team I know would hugely benefit from continuation of the service. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you need anything further. Keep up the good work – Thanks!'

In 2022 three members of staff and two volunteers with an excellent skill set were able to offer Advocacy support to 956 customers whilst referring a further 152 to partner agencies for further support.

One member of staff and three volunteers are currently offering basic support and have shown a keen interest in training though Advice in County Durham next year for this expanding and much needed service.

We also work closely with several partner organisations who offer more complex support around debt, housing and energy.

Some of the individuals we have supported have benefited from small grants up to the value of £150 from ACTS 435. This year's grant total of 58 grants is helping individuals.

Several older members of the community have accessed the Community Takeaway and been involved with events such as Community Bingo and our Jubilee Tea. They have been confident enough to access our Advocacy Service after meeting volunteers at these events. This has led to an increase in older people accessing support particularly around housing and applications for Attendance Allowance.

Our clients include many people living in financial poverty. This is caused by a range of issues from high rates of unemployment, mental health issues, drug and alcohol, homelessness, victims of domestic violence, crime hate and recently refugees from the war-stricken Ukraine.

Their needs are often complex and Advocacy support is at the forefront of our work.

The interventions given are unique to the individual and an immediate service is offered. This is critical as due to funding cuts; many services are no longer available.

Here are some examples of this year's Advocacy support.

K is suffering with domestic violence and needs to leave her family home with her 3 children. She turns up at the hub covered in bruises. Her husband owns the house, and he is refusing to leave, devastated, and unable to stay she comes to ask for help.

Support:

An Advocate carried out a benefit calculation and sourced a rental property where she could safely take her children. A small grant was sourced to pay the initial deposit to secure the property and the family were moved. A food parcel was also given, and the local council were contacted.

L is a Ukrainian refugee known to us as we helped to sort out her visa and her entitlement to benefits as she is a pensioner. She has fallen out with her host who she has been living with and is wandering around the streets, it is a Saturday morning, and she has nowhere to go, and has no money.

Support:

An Advocate went to location to meet with L and used crisis support funding to place in an Air B&B over the weekend as no services were available in the area. L remained there for 3 days before the council intervened and placed her in a hostel for further support. L is still closely linked with Shildon Alive and is

hoping to secure housing in Shildon. We have been collecting furniture and household items to help L with her transition when she gets a home.

Food support can be accessed by self-referral (which is monitored by staff) or by service referral for example: GP, Local Authority, Probation, Social Services., School Teachers, Job Centre Coach.

Community Events:

Our Community development worker planned and delivered a Jubilee Picnic and afternoon Tea in June, involving lots of our and volunteers along with several partner organisations, Lottery Awards For all funding.

It was a fabulous event with 500 people in attendance, all attendance received a packed lunch and all older persons an afternoon tea. Supported by Bright Water and Groundworks young people plant flowers in a previously disused, untidy area field and created a display honouring her late majesty the

We also organised a fun run, with the support of Park Run, Town Council and Shildon AFC with 100 people in attendance.

Our partnership with Shildon Town Council saw us giving 400 young people attending Fun 4 All free drinks and snacks.

At Christmas an anonymous donor who has now sadly passed away funded our young people and vulnerable families a trip to the theatre, we filled two buses with happy, excited folk and went to Durham Gala Theatre to watch Sleeping Beauty. It was an 'Oh yes please' to trying to do a similar thing this year!

We have had two volunteer days events this year. We all had a team building trip to South Shields in the summer and we had a Christmas meal at Shildon Civic Hall. Both days were greatly received and helped to build and say thanks to our fabulous team for all they do.



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Shildon

Credit Union:

Our NE first credit union collection point is growing, and our team of volunteers are doing a fantastic job, we recently had a relaunch event encouraging savers new and old with a 10 week incentive where they received a bonus for regularly saving. Volunteers have been given training and feel confident running the collection point for savings and loans.

Community Hub:

The Community hub has been busy all year with events and activities and is open as a Warm Space with a rolling programme of activities including Arts and Crafts, Life Skills, Games, crocheting. Free use of phone and laptop is also available with support if needed.

It is a safe space, and the team of volunteers work with people of all ages and abilities to help them gain new skills or simply provide a listening ear.

Youth Work:

We support a weekly Youth Group with up to 35 young people attending This is made possible because of partnership working with Shildon Town Council, SCYPAN and AYCC.

We provide free food for the young people attending and a member of our team supports the sessions. At Christmas the young people came to the Theatre trip and we created a free Christmas market with

presents for them, so they could choose their families presents. One young girl commented, 'I was so worried I wouldn't be able to get my mam anything with my pocket money, thanks so much' and another girl took one of the local shop owners a present from the market. They made a positive Facebook post thanking the girl and improving relationships with the young people and the shop owners.



Guerrilla Gardening / Gardening:

Our school and Guerrilla Gardening is growing' again. Throughout June, July and August we worked with 350 young people and families with gardening, Guerrilla gardening and Forest School activities. The sessions were fun with lots of learning. In all of the sessions everyone worked as a team to tidy and plant flowers and vegetables and learn survival skills along with sharing food and stories around the campfire.

Volunteer and job opportunities:

We will be recruiting for a full time Advocate and part time Food Surplus Worker volunteer advocates and drivers during February and March 23.

Opening times:

Shildon Alive 91-95 Church Street DL4

Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 9:00-3:00

For support outside of these times contact
info@shildonalive.org.uk

Tel:01388417600

<http://shildonalive.org.uk/>



1DT

Fundraising and donations:

Our donations, particularly after our piece on BBC news have been overwhelming, individuals have held fundraising events as well as individuals and groups giving cash and cheque donations. PPG industries, Hathaways, Asda and TJ Manners all gave us extremely generous monetary donations to support us to support others.

One anonymous donor in extremely poor health and who has now sadly passed away donated a large sum of money to allow us to take families to the theatre and to help our running costs.

Food parcels	1207
Free baskets of fruit and veg	2160
Free meals adults	928
Free meals children	3890
Advocacy support	1108

We would like to say a huge thanks to everyone at St John's Church, Shildon, St Marks Church Eldon, Shildon Town Council, LIVIN, Garfield Weston, Bishop Auckland and Shildon AAP, ACTS 435, County Durham Community Foundation, The Auckland project, 'closed doors open hearts', Tesco, Asda, Sainsburys, Greggs, Morrison's, CO-OP, Aldi, Lidl, Greenfield Community College, St Johns C of E Primary School, Timothy Hackworth Primary School, Thornhill Primary school, Byerley Road Pre-school, The Frank and Phyllis Scotto Charitable Trust, Shildon AFC supporters club, Busy Bees, Bookers wholesale and The National Lottery Community Fund for giving us the chance to make a difference in our town and surrounding villages.

Two of our amazing team members



LOTTERY FUNDED

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, SHILDON
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

	Note	Unrestricted Fund £	Unrestricted Designated Fund £	Restricted Fund £	Endowment Fund £	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
RECEIPTS							
<u>Voluntary Receipts:</u>							
Planned Giving		16,882	-	-	-	16,882	19,548
Collections		5,747	213	-	-	5,960	5,031
Gift Aid Recovered		5,236	-	-	-	5,236	5,631
All Other Giving/Voluntary	1	380	10,308	763	-	11,451	4,294
		28,245	10,521	763	-	39,529	34,504
<u>Activities for Generating Funds</u>							
	2	2,009	4,221	-	-	6,230	3,896
<u>Investment Income</u>							
	3	14,857	-	-	-	14,857	12,950
<u>Church Activities:</u>							
Income from Trading	4	170	272	-	-	442	164
Other Receipts	5	18,482	-	-	-	18,482	14,384
		18,652	272	-	-	18,924	14,548
Total Receipts		63,763	15,014	763	-	79,540	65,898
PAYMENTS							
<u>Church Activities:</u>							
Parish Share		33,657	-	-	-	33,657	33,657
Clergy and Staffing Costs	6	2,754	-	-	-	2,754	2,327
Church Running Expenses	7	19,033	3,121	-	-	22,154	12,915
Hall Running Costs	8	6,229	170	-	-	6,399	5,705
Mission Giving and Donations	9	660	834	246	-	1,740	587
Costs of Trading	10	156	-	-	-	156	204
<u>Asset and Investment Purchases:</u>							
C of E Investment Fund Income Shares		20,000	-	-	-	20,000	359
		82,489	4,125	246	-	86,860	55,754
<u>Cost of Generating Funds</u>							
	11	7,710	-	-	-	7,710	7,096
<u>Governance Costs</u>							
	12	100	-	-	-	100	854
Total Payments		90,299	4,125	246	-	94,670	63,704
Excess of Receipts over Payments	13	(26,536)	10,889	517	-	(15,130)	2,194
Transfers between funds		(413)	413	-	-	-	-
Cash at Bank and in Hand 1 Jan		34,890	26,916	2,506	-	64,312	62,118
Cash at Bank and in Hand 31 Dec		7,941	38,218	3,023	-	49,182	64,312

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, SHILDON
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

	Note	Unrestricted Fund £	Unrestricted Designated Fund £	Restricted Fund £	Endowment Fund £	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
Receipts							
<u>All Other Giving/Voluntary Receipts</u>	1						
Donations, appeals etc.		380	6,000	763	-	7,143	2,671
Grants		-	4,308	-	-	4,308	1,623
		380	10,308	763	-	11,451	4,294
<u>Activities for Generating Funds</u>	2						
Summer Fayre		70	1,546	-	-	1,616	1,420
Winter Fayre		-	1,782	-	-	1,782	1,629
Church Trip		1,321	-	-	-	1,321	-
Concert - Northern Voice		-	-	-	-	-	220
Quiz		-	171	-	-	171	170
Beetle Drive		-	127	-	-	127	-
Musical Bingo		-	-	-	-	-	153
Other Events		87	10	-	-	97	-
Tea & Coffee/Coffee Mornings		531	585	-	-	1,116	304
		2,009	4,221	-	-	6,230	3,896
<u>Investment Income</u>	3						
Rent from Mission Hall		14,580	-	-	-	14,580	12,949
Bank Interest		169	-	-	-	169	1
Dividend		108	-	-	-	108	-
		14,857	-	-	-	14,857	12,950
<u>Income from Trading</u>	4						
Hall Rents		170	272	-	-	442	164
		170	272	-	-	442	164
<u>Other Receipts</u>	5						
Receipts for Weddings & Funerals		18,482	-	-	-	18,482	14,384
		18,482	-	-	-	18,482	14,384

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, SHILDON
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

	Note	Unrestricted Fund £	Unrestricted Designated Fund £	Restricted Fund £	Endowment Fund £	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
<u>Expenses</u>							
<u>Clergy & Staffing Costs</u>	6						
Vicarage Expenses		318	-	-	-	318	234
Refunded Vicarage Expenses		-	-	-	-	-	(419)
Working Expenses of Clergy		947	-	-	-	947	659
Visiting Clergy Fees		392	-	-	-	392	318
Organists' Fees		-	-	-	-	-	120
Vergers' Fees		1,020	-	-	-	1,020	1,065
Youth Work Expenses		77	-	-	-	77	350
		2,754	-	-	-	2,754	2,327
<u>Church Running Expenses</u>	7						
Light & Heat		7,935	-	-	-	7,935	1,152
Insurance		4,680	-	-	-	4,680	4,417
Repairs & Maintenance		2,680	3,121	-	-	5,801	3,631
Water Rates		105	-	-	-	105	140
Cleaning		1,460	-	-	-	1,460	759
Upkeep of Services		1,650	-	-	-	1,650	1,825
Post Stationery & Admin Costs		523	-	-	-	523	831
Parish Training & Mission		-	-	-	-	-	160
		19,033	3,121	-	-	22,154	12,915
<u>Hall Running Costs</u>	8						
Light & Heat		4,486	-	-	-	4,486	2,910
Insurance		1,089	-	-	-	1,089	1,037
Repairs & Maintenance		108	170	-	-	278	1,203
Water Rates		546	-	-	-	546	555
		6,229	170	-	-	6,399	5,705
<u>Missionary Giving & Donations</u>	9						
Other Donations to Charities		441	-	101	-	542	89
Community Garden		40	-	-	-	40	40
Other Mission Expenses		131	834	145	-	1,110	444
Other Gifts & Donations		48	-	-	-	48	14
		660	834	246	-	1,740	587

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, SHILDON
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

Costs of Trading

Licences & Other Expenses

10	156	-	-	-	156	204
	156	-	-	-	156	204

Costs of Generating Funds

Assigned Fees for Weddings & Funerals

Cost of Fayres, Kitchen etc

11	6,427	-	-	-	6,427	6,959
	1,283	-	-	-	1,283	137
	7,710	-	-	-	7,710	7,096

Governance Costs

Independent Examination Costs

Quinquennial Inspection & Report Costs

12	100	-	-	-	100	-
	-	-	-	-	-	854
	100	-	-	-	100	854

**Movements in Restricted
& Designated Funds**

	13	Bal b/f	Restricted Receipts	Designated Receipts	Restricted Payments	Designated Payments	Transfers	Bal c/f
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Charity Donations		-	31		31	-	-	-
Knit & Knatter		396	-	35	-	-	-	431
Upkeep and Maintenance		4,719	-	14,291	-	3,291	-	15,719
Bellringers		3,706	200	-	70	-	-	3,836
Youth Workers Wages		15,661	-	-	-	-	-	15,661
Youth Group		1,367	-	-	-	190	21	1,198
Youth Assistant		2,360	-	-	-	-	(21)	2,339
Youth Gardening		1,000	-	-	-	102	-	898
Messy Church		626	-	688	-	542	-	772
Memory Café		-	532	-	145	-	-	387
Community Project		(413)	-	-	-	-	413	-
		29,422	763	15,014	246	4,125	413	41,241
Restricted		2506						3023
Designated		26916						38218
		29,422						41,241

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, SHILDON
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

<u>Monetary Assets</u>	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>	<u>Designated Funds</u>	<u>Restricted Funds</u>	<u>Totals</u>	
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
				<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Bank Current Account	-	28,159	3,023	31,182	44,214
CCLA Deposit	7,941	10,059	-	18,000	20,000
Cash in Hand	-	-	-	-	98
	<u>7,941</u>	<u>38,218</u>	<u>3,023</u>	<u>49,182</u>	<u>64,312</u>

<u>Fixed Assets</u>	<u>Fund to which asset belongs</u>
CBF Church of England Investment Fund Income Shares 932.31 shares	Unrestricted

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PCC OF ST JOHN'S CHURCH, SHILDON

I report on the accounts for year ended 31 December 2022, which are set out on pages A2 to A6.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Independent Examiner

As the members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you 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
- 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. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC 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 statement below.

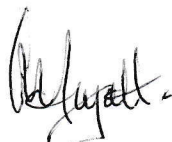
Independent examiner's statement

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

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

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the requirements of the 2011 Act
- 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.



Mr A Fryatt
14 Willow Road
Middlestone Moor
Spennymoor
DL16 7AR

9th March 2023

Accounts

Saint John's Church, Shildon

Annual Report April 2021- April 2022



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Administrative Information

St John's Church is situated on Church St, Shildon. It is part of the Diocese of Durham within the Church of England. The correspondence address is St John's Vicarage, 1A Burnie Gardens, Shildon, County Durham, DL4 1ND.

Parish Organisation

Priest in Charge: Revd. Carol Harris
St John's Vicarage, 1A Burnie Gardens, Shildon, DL4 1ND
01388 778998 carol@shildonparish.org.uk
Assistant Minister: Revd. Frances Cooper
frances.cooper@durham.anglican.org

The PCC of St. John's Church, Shildon, has the responsibility for co-operating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

The PCC is a charity registered with the Charity Commission. Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected by the annual parochial church meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

During the year the following served as members of the PCC:

Church Wardens:	Mrs A Sanderson (elected 2021)) Mrs A. Todd (elected 2020)
Lay Chair:	Mr N. Cleasby
Treasurer:	Mr. P. Arnold
Secretary:	Mrs D. Truby
Deputy churchwarden:	Mr C. Bennett
	Mrs L. Arnold (Gift Aid Co Ordinator)
	Mrs. O. Bainbridge
	Mrs. D. Bennett
	Mrs A. Cleasby (Safeguarding Officer)
	Ms. J. Copland
	Mr A. Harris
	Mr. T. Hillary

Deanery Synod Reps: Mr P. Arnold and Mr. C Bennett

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Clergy Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishops' Guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.)

Report on the electoral roll

The number on the revised electoral roll for 2021 has gone down by **2** people to a total of **93**.

The electoral roll officer is Mrs Mary Harrison.

Minister's Report April 2021 - April 2022

Looking back through the year it seems such a long time since last April as so much feels different within church and generally in the country as restrictions have lifted and everything has been able to open out.

In August the PCC had a half day away where we discussed the shape of the services going into the future as we opened up after Covid and the parish priorities. Defining priorities helps to shape who we are as a church and where we choose to invest our energy and time. Three priorities were agreed upon with the first being to focus on church growth, both in numbers in the congregations and in discipleship with a particular emphasis on seeing a diverse range of ages represented in the church congregation. The second was to focus on children and young people and how we could engage with this group in more depth and the third was to continue with the priority of engaging with and serving our local community with a particular emphasis on continuing to work with and support the church project Shildon Alive.

There have been many encouragements in the year and much to give thanks for within our church community and the wider community many of which reflect the above priorities. Here I have pulled out a few -

- The licensing of Frances as Associate Priest to the parish on the 7th November 2021. It was so lovely to see Frances licenced by Archdeacon Libby and know that she is able to continue her ministry with us here in Shildon and Eldon, somewhere she feels strongly that God has called her to. This significantly strengthens our ministry team going forward with myself and Andy.
- The lifting of restrictions, meaning that we could worship more freely without having to wear masks all the time and could return to refreshments after the services both on a Sunday and a Thursday. It is so good to be able to spend time together after the service over a cup of tea or coffee.
- The restart of Explorers during the Sunday morning service. It has been such a joy to see younger members of the congregation on a Sunday morning and thanks go to Anne and Becky for all their hard work in organising the new look Explorers. Do see their report. It has also been lovely to establish a third Sunday All Age service when the children stay in and we have a more relaxed informal feel to the service.
- The return of singing within our services. It has been lovely to be able to sing again in our services. Thanks go to Lynne, Paul and Simon for their music as well as Philip Hall who is playing the organ on the second Sunday of the month. We have also started the First Sunday service on the first Sunday evening of the month at 6pm and it has been good to be able to enjoy an extended worship time led by a worship band as part of this. Thanks go to Richard our Cranmer student for all his help and support with this. It has been lovely to have Richard with us for his six month placement before he is ordained in the summer.
- New faces in church - it has been lovely to see new people this year in our services.
- The return of lay worship leaders in our Sunday morning services - thanks to Anne, Dorothy and Carl for their leading.
- The start of a new monthly Messy Church on a Saturday afternoon. It has been so encouraging to see so many new families and lovely to build relationships

and have fun and worship together. We have a talented committed team who all work really well together, please see Jane and Dorothy's report.

- The return of socials and the summer and Christmas fairs. Thanks to the social and fundraising team for all their hard work, please see their report.
- The amazing work that Shildon Alive continue to do in the community and the difference they make to the lives of so many in our town. Please see report.
- Seeing how St John's School has risen to the many challenges they have faced in the year that has gone and how they continue to nurture, support and care for all the young people and families in the school and provide an excellent all-round education. The commitment of Mr Farnell and all of the staff has been and is amazing. I am looking forward to the return of whole school services in church and have been so pleased to be able to now go into school to take collective worship on a regular basis. Please see report
- Christmas services which were more back to normal but which we still had to adapt due to the increase of the then new Omicron variant.
- The Alpha course - it has been wonderful to be able to run Alpha over eight weeks this term including the day away with so many people and it has been such a positive experience for so many.
- Uniformed organizations - we have worked a lot more closely with the guides, brownies and rainbows who meet in the church and it has been lovely to see the girls involved in work in the quiet garden, joining in with our harvest service and a thinking day service and with their own Christingle service. It has also been lovely to see New Shildon scouts and cubs attending services in church including the Remembrance Day service and bringing volunteers to help with the fairs.
- Zoom evening prayer - it has been lovely to continue to share evening prayer on Zoom with a small number of people including some of whom are not physically able to attend services.
- The pastoral team who have now been able to resume taking Communion out to housebound members of the church.
- Redworth House Services - it has been good to be able to re establish a monthly service in the care home with a small team from church.
- The number of baptisms - these continue to be high and they provide a lovely opportunity to build relationships with many local families.

Looking back you can see God at work in so many ways in and through our church community and I'm sure there are things that I've missed too! In Corinthians Paul talks about the church as a body with many parts where each person brings their own gifts and talents to altogether form one body. As I think about the church family here in Shildon you can see how so many people work together as the body of Christ here in Shildon to shine out Jesus' love in our community. Thank you to everyone for all your prayer, commitment and hard work in the year that has gone and let us look forward to where God is leading us in the year to come!

Rev. Carol Harris - March 2022

PCC Secretary's report.

Following the National lockdown, we were allowed back into church but with many restrictions.

We held some PCC meetings via Zoom and some in church.
We held six meetings in all, with good attendance at all.
An away morning was held in St. Marks as a half-day session to discuss the way forward after covid restrictions lifted and to discuss parish priorities.
In August it was announced to great pleasure that Revd. Frances Cooper was to remain with us on a permanent basis as Associate priest.
Also, during 2021 we held our annual summer fayre, with stalls outside as covid restrictions didn't lift as expected on that day. We had a social event in July, in the Vicarage Garden, hosted by Carol and Andy.
In October, we had a quiz and broth night, which was great fun.
In November we held the Christmas Fayre inside which was well attended and went really well and during December we were treated to Northern Voices who held a musical evening in the church.

Dorothy Truby - PCC Secretary

Treasurers Report

Financial Review for Parish AGM 5th April 2022.

Annual Financial statements and accounts for the year ended 31/12/2021.

These have been circulated for your perusal, it should be noted that we ended the year in credit by £2,194 this was due to a couple of late entries. The general account was in deficit but the excess in the building and maintenance account and the youth work meant overall we had more income than expenses.

Care should be taken when comparing these 2021 figures with the 2020 figures as the 2020 figures included some Shildon Alive figures. For example, as at note 1. Funds from Donations appeals etc. 2020 £51,785 and 2021 £2,671 the 2020 figure includes lottery money for Shildon Alive the 2021 figure does not.

Income

Planned giving and collections increased. Gift Aid decreased but this was due to changing the timing of the claim in 2020 when we claimed for 1 year and 3 months.

Income from fundraising increased substantially and rent from the mission hall increased. A lot of these increases are due to recovery from coronavirus lockdowns, activities recommencing and weddings resuming etc.

Expenditure

Clergy and staffing costs were significantly less due to not having a youth worker and not having as many visiting clergy.

Church running costs were less due to lower light and heat bills and lower cleaning bills due to the church being closed in lockdowns, repairs and maintenance costs were significantly less.

Mission Hall running costs were very similar.

Missionary giving and donations were less due to Shildon Alive being removed and the effect of covid on other mission expenses.

Future Challenges

I see this as being the effect of inflation and our ability to keep pace with it. Every year when our own personal income increases either wage rises or pension income, we need to review what we give to church, as the church is feeling the effects of inflation just as we do with our personal lives.

In particular at present the costs of energy are going to be felt in our expenses.

The work required as identified in the quinquennial report is also going to need a lot of financial support.

Reserves Policy

The recommended reserves to be maintained are equivalent to three months payments. If possible, we would like to maintain a balance on our general (unrestricted) fund which would equate to three months payments, this would mean we would need to maintain £15,000 to cover emergencies. I am pleased to report that over the last year we managed to just about maintain that amount.

Paul Arnold

Parish Treasurer

Church Wardens' Fabric Report

Annual checks have been made and work done where needed on:

Fire Extinguishers, organ, gas boiler and cooker servicing, Lighting conductor, Emergency lighting, fire safety system, Intruder alarm LOLER. Inspection for lift and lift servicing.

Quinquennial Report

This year we have had a very detailed and comprehensive report, with the main focus on the repairs required to the roof and stonework.

Some of the items that required immediate work have been addressed however we are waiting for tradespeople when they will be able to start the work on the roof and windows before we can proceed with the other recommendations.

Quiet Garden

A grant was received from Shildon Alive to work with young people on a community garden project for our quiet garden. Christine, Ann and Adele met and worked with the Guides Brownies and Rangers and their leaders every Thursday night for several weeks. The grant enabled us to purchase plants and various items, they made a wildlife garden, building and making wildlife habitats, constructing and planting containers and generally digging and planting they all worked so hard and which we all very much enjoyed seeing the garden when finished which is also very much appreciated by the community. A huge thankyou to everyone involved in the project.

Property Register

These items have been added to the property register

- Thermo Flask hot water boiler
- Notice Board
- Table top Freezer
- Moveable small kitchen unit
- Old gas cooker removed from downstairs kitchen and microwave replaced

We thank you all for your continuous support throughout the year.

Mission Hall

Annual Checks and work completed when needed:

Fire Extinguishers, gas servicing and general maintenance work completed.

Quinquennial electrical check and certificate obtained which required a new circuit system board also.

Thank you for all your support you have given us throughout the year.

Adele Todd & Ann Sanderson
Churchwardens

Messy Church

During June we held a meeting to discuss the possibility of starting a Messy Church. Twelve people attended the initial meeting, with speaker, Sharon Pritchard, who spoke about starting Messy Church, and gave lots of advice. It was decided to “give it a go”.

Rev. Carol and Dorothy attended a Messy Church planning at St. Marks, which was very useful.

We held an initial planning meeting and decided to hold the Messy Church on the second Saturday of the month. Our first session was during October. We anxiously waited and wondered if anyone would turn up. Thankfully they did and our numbers have grown and the sessions are very enjoyable for all involved.

Messy Church was started last September. We meet on the second Saturday of the month from 2 till 4 pm.

Messy Church is aimed at primary school aged children, with parents/carers alongside.

We enjoy singing, listening to a bible story and doing biblically themed crafts, prayers and lastly sitting down together to have some food.

Numbers have gone up from the 6 children plus families we had in September to 20/25 which for now will be the maximum we can accommodate.

Jane Copland
Dorothy Truby

St. John's Church - Explorers' Group AGM Report 2022

Our Explorers Group has resumed since January 2022 after the Covid Lockdown was eased. Explorers happens during our Sunday morning service from 10.10am to 10.45am. We do this in the foyer so the children are able to see what is happening in the service through the large windows and are included in the Peace by waving.

Crafts and activities follow alongside with the Gospel Readings.

We touch on the way they see God, what he would like them to do and how to translate some of these stories into our modern world. The children take their crafts home and we try to keep one to display on our Sunday School display board.

The children are asked, if they feel comfortable to do so, to go to the front of the Church, after Communion to show Carol or Frances and the congregation what they have achieved and retell their own understanding of the lesson.

The number of children in our group every Sunday morning varies from 3 up to 6. We hope numbers rise again soon now that Covid restrictions are being lifted.

We look forward to our coming year and welcome all children to join us Exploring God.

Anne Cleasby and Becky Callaghan

Church Flowers

We would like to thank everyone for their generous donations for flowers, this enables us to arrange the flowers throughout the year for celebrations and events, we also provide floral arrangements for weddings depending on the couples requirements and floral tributes for the bereaved in memory of their loved ones on occasions of anniversaries

Adele Todd

Social and fund-raising committee report

The social and fundraising committee held meetings on 2nd September and 11th November 2021 and 24th February 2022.

On 26th June 2021 the summer fair took place but had to be held outside due to covid restrictions. It was well attended with entertainment provided by a brass band.

On 25th September there was a coffee morning in aid of McMillan.

Wednesday morning coffee mornings run by Barbara commenced on 6th October, subject to review if there was a funeral. These coffee mornings have since discontinued.

On Saturday 16th October, a harvest quiz with broth supper was held. This was followed the next morning by a harvest festival at which a substantial amount of food was collected for Shildon Alive.

Monthly Saturday coffee mornings commenced on 30th October from 10am – 12 noon. Lynne will set up and run a 'brand new', 'nearly new' and 'pre-owned items' stall at these coffee mornings about 3-4 times a year. All proceeds are for Messy Church funds.

On Friday 19th November there was a 'musical bingo' evening with pie and pea supper.

On Saturday 27th November the annual Christmas fair was held indoors.

On Saturday 11th December, Northern Voices choir performed a Christmas concert in church in aid of church funds.

A 'Beetle Drive' evening with pie and pea supper was scheduled for 22nd January, but this was postponed due to covid infections, and was held on Wednesday 23rd March.

The summer fair is scheduled for Saturday 25th June with as many stalls as possible outside again, weather permitting. A meeting of the social and fundraising committee will be arranged in due course to discuss the fair.

Lynne Arnold

Bell-ringers Report 2021 - 2022

Well, another strange year with not a lot of ringing due to Covid. As restrictions lifted, we started to have practice nights again but only for those who could handle a bell independently. Strict hand sanitising and air circulation has been maintained as have lateral flow tests for the day of ringing.

We did manage to ring for a few weddings including being able to ring for Emily Callaghan and Ben Scott. Emily being one of our original young people from St. John's who learnt to ring with us, so this was a very joyous occasion.

Due to the church needing money for essential repairs we were asked if the bell ringers would give a contribution. We gave £750, this was money the church had originally given from the flower festival to help with the bell restoration fund. As bell money is restricted for the use of the bells it can't just be given away but as the church had given some of this in the first place and not used, we felt that hopefully this would help.

Looking to the future we are hoping to have an open morning in the tower and to welcome locals to come and see how their money was spent and hopefully recruit some new ringers.

Trevor Thompson - Tower Captain Davina Tomlinson

St. Johns C of E (Aided) Primary School

Report for St John's Church Annual General Meeting

March 2022



Covid-19 Pandemic

As a school and church community, we have been significantly affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. For almost two years, we were unable to meet as a whole school to have Collective Worship in school, have services in St. John's Church or to sing together. During this time, we have done our best to maintain a sense of belonging and 'oneness' for our children and staff. This was achieved through whole school online Microsoft Teams Collective Worship sessions led by our Senior Leadership Team,

and through daily Class Worship, led by class teachers. Revd. Carol also pre-recorded a weekly 'Thought for the Day' video linked to the theme of the week, which we shared with all children and staff.

Autumn Term 2021

We returned to school in September 2021 with a renewed positivity and sense of hope for better things to come. Considering what we had all been through as a school and church community, we continued to hold onto these words from Isaiah 43:1-2, promising that whatever we go through, God is with us: "Do not be afraid, for I have ransomed you. I have called you by name; you are mine. When you go through deep waters, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown. When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you."

In the Autumn Term, for safety reasons, we decided to continue to share daily acts of **Collective Worship** online via Microsoft Teams and class worship, rather than meeting together collectively in the Hall. Our Collective Worship themes for Autumn Term were: *Christian Values, The Lord's Prayer, School Prayer, Advent and Christmas*. We spent a number of weeks revisiting the Lord's Prayer and our School Prayer as a number of children had missed a significant amount of school, and some younger children had had no experience of these important prayers at all. We wanted to ensure all our children were confident when saying the words of these two prayers and that they understood their significance.

We had planned for our children to take part in **Christingle Services** at Church at the end of term, but because of rising cases of the Omicron variant and a number of other factors, we decided to hold the Christingle Services in our school hall in class bubbles (two classes together). Revd. Carol led each of the four services (EYFS, Years 1 & 2, Years 3 & 4 and Years 5 & 6) where we shared readings, carols, prayers and lit Christingles. Despite not being able to meet in Church, these services were very special for everyone involved.

Spring Term 2022

Following the Christmas break, we continued to review the situation regarding meeting together to worship. Finally, with the lifting of restrictions at the end of February, we decided it was time to share together times of Collective Worship. After meeting in separate Key Stages for a few weeks, we eventually joined together as a whole school to worship God at the end of February. This was such an emotional time for everyone in our school as we had been unable to meet like this for almost two years. The sense of God's presence was tangible as all children and staff spent time in praise and worship together. We certainly agreed with the Psalmist who writes: 'Praise the Lord. How good it is to sing praises to our God, how pleasant and fitting to praise Him!' (Psalm 147:1).

Revd. Carol is now leading whole school weekly acts of Collective Worship in school which is continuing to strengthen church-school links.

Easter Celebration Service

On Tuesday 5th April at 9:30am, we will be holding our first Easter Celebration Service in St. John's Church for over two years! The service will be led by Revd. Carol with a

small team of children to help as readers. We are so looking forward to meeting together again in Church.

Communion Preparation

In addition to this, Revd. Carol will also be leading a series of Communion Preparation sessions with our Year 6 children in May and June. Following a Baptism service at the end of June, we will be holding a Year 6 Leavers' Eucharist Service (with the whole school and Year 6 parents) on Tuesday 12th July at 9:30am.

SIAMS Inspection

The previous five-year cycle of SIAMS Inspections, which meant we would have received an inspection in June 2023, has been extended by approximately two years. As a school we are continually developing and improving our delivery of the RE Curriculum and Collective Worship, as well our distinctive aspects as a Church of England school.

School Developments

We have continued to develop and strengthen our delivery of the curriculum to all children in school. As reading is such an important life skill, we have particularly focused on encouraging children to read as much as possible across the school.

With changes to the EYFS curriculum, the EYFS team have been able to create a bespoke curriculum to best meet the needs of our younger children in school.

The Ironmongers Company from London have generously given an additional £2,500 to help us develop our outdoor play equipment and resources.

Our Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) has been resurfaced at a cost of over £30,000. This has significantly enhanced the play and games facilities for all children. Our next grounds project is the installation of Daily Mile Running Track, with funding through the Area Action Partnership.

Outcomes

The school continues to retain an 'Outstanding' Ofsted grade which it has held since March 2008. In September 2020 we anticipate being in the cycle for re-inspection, as Ofsted have begun the process for the removal of the exemption status for 'outstanding school'.

In 2019 School Performance Data for all subjects in Key Stage 2 was again either at or above the National Average. A highlight of this being our Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling, with 90% of pupils at the expected standard and 47% at the higher standard these results are 12% and 11% above the National Averages. For Reading, Writing and Mathematics combined we were 5% above the national Average, with 70% of pupils reaching the expected standard.

School Governing Body

The Governors are:

Foundation: Mrs Olga Bainbridge, Mrs Becky Callaghan, Mrs Jade Plews, Mrs Alison Hone, Revd. Carol Harris, Mr Andrew Harris

Staff: Mr A Farnell, Mrs Louise Scott

Local Authority: Mrs Patricia Pemberton

Parent: Mrs Lisa Brown and Mr Scott Allen

New Shildon All Saints B-P Scout group

Annual report for St. John's P.C.C. A.G.M 2022

With this we reorganized the remaining leaders to cover this and as a result are unable to expand the Colony until Katelynn Callaghan is BDS and gains her warrant.



Cubs

Moving Eileen Bowman to Cubs meant we could not expand the cubs as we have only 1 leader with 8 cubs. We are looking for a new volunteer to help with this section

Scouts

We have 9 scouts who attend nearly every week but only 1 leader so I can't expand until I have a volunteer to help.

With the rent going up from £60 a week to £70 we have increased subs to £3.00 a week at the moment does not cover the monthly rent.

We are looking into funding and a parent has stepped up to help become our funding coordinator Sarah Bowman.

IF WE DO NOT SECURE FUNDING, WE WILL HAVE TO CLOSE THE GROUP BY MAY 2022

Neil Cleasby
Scout Leader

Howden le Wear W.I. who meet at St John's Church, Shildon

Secretary's report 2020-21

Firstly, it has certainly been a strange time for all our Institutes over the last two years. Who could have foreseen Covid-19 and the fact that we wouldn't be able to meet as a group for so long?

Our last meeting before lockdown was January 2020. We had a thoroughly enjoyable meeting, which we opened up to friends and family as we had Chyrelle Adams, Singer as our Guest Speaker. Chyrelle had suffered from Breast Cancer some years ago, and all monies raised from her gigs go to her Cancer Support Charity.

Lockdown changed everything for the W.I. and due to Covid we were unable to meet until September 2021.

Before our first official meeting again as a group, we had a wonderful afternoon out at Headlam Hall. Members enjoyed delicious afternoon tea and catch up. It was so good to see everyone again, just the tonic we needed!!!

We had another meeting in November 2021, and as we don't meet in December due to Church commitments for the Hall, we were due to meet in January 2022. However, both Wendy and Barbara succumbed to the dreaded Covid-19 and on advice from WI House, we decided it was best to hold our next meeting as planned in February.

Our Membership is down to 10 members, although we have gained another 2 prospective new members. We are planning a varied Programme of Events for 2022, but Guest Speakers, who haven't visited before, is proving difficult. However, in-house activities are also an option and I am in the process of sourcing a mystery trip in the summer, whereby members can enjoy a leisurely coach ride and supper.

Although Wendy and I have experienced extensive ill health of late, I do hope we can continue, at least for the immediate future, to ensure the Members of Howden le Wear WI at Shildon have an enjoyable and entertaining evening at our Institute. We thank WI House and our loyal members for their continued support and let us hope that 2022 is a better year for us all.

Barbara Coia, Secretary, Howden le Wear WI at Shildon, February 2022

Shildon Alive Annual Report 2021

A message from our Chair -

'It is amazing to look back on the year that has gone at Shildon Alive and see how all the staff and volunteers have risen to the incredible challenges of 2021, making such a difference to the lives and aspirations of so many in our community. What has been achieved is phenomenal as you will see as you read on.'

Revd Carol Harris, chair of Shildon Alive (Priest in charge of St John's Church)

Special Thankyous - Project Manager Paula Nelson

'We would like to thank all of the staff and volunteers for the fantastic support they offer our community. We feel privileged to be part of this amazing project. They have all worked so hard to support their community in a particularly challenging time and we want to thank each and every one of them for their dedication and positive attitude.'

Paula's Highlights:

Receiving thankyou letters from all of the young people we worked with gardening in Hackworth Park.

Building a strong team of staff who all care for each other and their community. It feels really special!

Watching volunteers, who previously had addiction or low self esteem become part of a big family, grow in strength and start smiling, together we are stronger.

Shildon Alive Community Kitchen and Takeaway

2021 has been an amazing year for Tracy and Dan who have introduced the following services over the last 12 months.

- Built takeaway sales by introducing a daily menu, three-course meal delivery service, delivered to all residents in Shildon for £5.00
- Scrumptious home made pies, quiches, and cakes (be quick! as these sell out quickly)
- "No Baking & Fruity Fun" launched, during the summer months, that was rolled out in the Shildon Alive hub. 140 children participated in sessions to learn new cooking skills, the young cooks produced fruit kebabs, smoothies and fruit ice lollies.
- "Plot to Plate" session also took place in the summer months. The children involved went to a local community garden to pick produce and then were taught how to cook a meal with it back at the community hub.
- Free breakfasts are offered to all children on their way to school in Shildon, together with free lunches during school holidays.
- An adult lunch time donation meal was introduced to the whole community
- Afterschool cookery club at one of our local schools proved popular and has secured further bookings for 2022.
- Part rescued buffets were introduced, proving very popular, this is affordable for everyone and helps the planet. The Three Tuns public house are regular customers who purchase for their darts team.
- Community links were made with the Railway Institute , the kitchen staff went planting window boxes in the spring and autumn of 2021.
- Forget Me Not flower school opened on Shildon high street and we provided homemade biscuits and cup cakes for their workshop launch.
- In the summer months nutritious hot meals and pack lunches were provided to Shildon Town Council and a local football academy.
- Christmas 2021, included gingerbread house making, attended by over 40 children.

Ashley Wharton - Shildon Alive Community Development Officer

‘Since starting my role at Shildon Alive I have been involved in numerous activities and events. During the summer, I re-potted plants, donated to us by Morrisons supermarket in Bishop Auckland, with eight young volunteers, which Shildon Alive went on to sell from our stall at the Little Big meeting in August. I set up a vegetable stall in number 42 shop in Bishop Auckland marketplace, attended by approximately 2000 residents. These stalls not only generated income for the charity through donations and sales, they also allowed us to raise awareness of the work that we do, and the difference that we can make.’

'I also made connections with Journey who are a charity that help support people who have learning disabilities, who are based in Coundon, and have since hosted gardening days with their participants, arranged visits to our community shop and assisted them with setting up their own rescued produce stall in their local area.'

'Over the past 6 months I have also worked with local primary schools, delivering sessions, to encourage engagement in community activities, and also discussed how they can get involved. We also run a rescued food stall once a week, which is run by the children and is proving popular. These stalls enable the young people to be involved in our mission of reducing food waste whilst also generating an income for their school and the charity.'

'I attend ParkPlay every Saturday morning, taking a donation of rescued fruit for the participants. This has been a great way for me to become familiar with the younger generation in Shildon, and has given me the opportunity to meet their parents, allowing me to hear their input and opinions on what is missing from their community. I have attended several Shildon FC matches and made connections with the club's owner, enabling me to be involved in the ideas process for the use of the new community interest company's facilities to benefit the community of Shildon residents.'

Lynne Clift-Harvey - Shildon Alive Advocacy Worker

During 2021 Lynne engaged and supported over 1000 people in 2021. The support included:

- 1057 food parcels to individuals and families in Shildon and surrounding areas
- Helped support 78 people in crisis with funding grants totalling £8,900.00
- Assisted 104 people with their benefit applications
- Supported 46 people with housing issues
- Provided 22 people with job search support and help with digital skills
- Signposted 28 people with mental health issues to the correct service
- 55 people received vouchers to help with their gas and electric during December
- Supported 6 homeless individuals
- Provided support for 2 families who were victim to gang crime

I deliver a charity Bingo session at the 3 Tuns every Thursday night that has a very friendly, vibrant atmosphere, we offer free coffee, tea and rescued sandwiches to all participants.

'It is amazing to look back on the year that has gone at Shildon Alive and see how all the staff and volunteers have risen to the incredible challenges of 2021, making such a

difference to the lives and aspirations of so many in our community. What has been

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, SHILDON
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

	Note	Unrestricted Fund £	Unrestricted Designated Fund £	Restricted Fund £	Endowment Fund £	Total Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2020 £
RECEIPTS							
<u>Voluntary Receipts:</u>							
Planned Giving		19548	-	-	-	19,548	18019
Collections		4942	-	89	-	5,031	2834
Gift Aid Recovered		5631	-	-	-	5,631	7554
All Other Giving/Voluntary	1	2454	117	1,723	-	4,294	10870
		32,575	117	1,812	-	34,504	39277
<u>Activities for Generating Funds</u>							
	2	240	3,656	-	-	3,896	958
<u>Investment Income</u>							
	3	12,950	-	-	-	12,950	10795
<u>Church Activities:</u>							
Income from Trading	4	109	55	-	-	164	349
Other Receipts	5	14,384	-	-	-	14,384	26662
		14,493	55	-	-	14,548	27011
Total Receipts		60,258	3,828	1,812	-	65,898	78041
PAYMENTS							
<u>Church Activities:</u>							
Parish Share		33,657	-	-	-	33,657	23840
Clergy and Staffing Costs	6	1,991	300	36	-	2,327	22770
Church Running Expenses	7	12,136	779	-	-	12,915	15422
Hall Running Costs	8	5,705	-	-	-	5,705	4699
Mission Giving and Donations	9	498	-	89	-	587	3805
Costs of Trading	10	204	-	-	-	204	193
Asset Purchases		359	-	-	-	359	4663
		54,550	1,079	125	-	55,754	75392
<u>Cost of Generating Funds</u>							
	11	7,096	-	-	-	7,096	9122
<u>Governance Costs</u>							
	12	854	-	-	-	854	110
Total Payments		62,500	1,079	125	-	63,704	84624
Excess of Receipts over Payments	13	(2,242)	2,749	1,687	-	2,194	(6,581)
Transfers between funds		735	-	(735)	-	-	-
Cash at Bank and in Hand 1 Jan		36,397	24,167	1,554	-	62,118	68699
Cash at Bank and in Hand 31 Dec		34,890	26,916	2,506	-	64,312	62118

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, SHILDON
NOTES RELATING TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Note	Unrestricted Fund £	Unrestricted Designated Fund £	Restricted Fund £	Endowment Fund £	Total Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2020 £
Receipts							
<u>All Other Giving/Voluntary Receipts</u>	1						
Donations, appeals etc.		2454	117	100	-	2,671	51785
Grants		-	-	1623	-	1,623	
		2,454	117	1,723	-	4,294	51785
<u>Activities for Generating Funds</u>							
	2						
Summer Fayre		-	1,420	-	-	1420	1506
Winter Fayre		70	1,559	-	-	1629	1927
MacMillan Coffee Morning		-	-	-	-	-	233
Concert - Northern Voice		-	220	-	-	220	-
Quiz & Supper		170	-	-	-	170	-
Film Afternoons		-	-	-	-	-	192
Musical Bingo		-	153	-	-	153	-
Bellringers Fundraising		-	-	-	-	-	1,100
Other Events		-	-	-	-	-	1262
Tea & Coffee/Coffee Mornings		-	304	-	-	304	1779
Bus & Boat Trip		-	-	-	-	-	765
Windermere Boat & Train Trip		-	-	-	-	-	138
Barbeque		-	-	-	-	-	25
		240	3,656	-	-	3896	8,927
<u>Investment Income</u>							
	3						
Rent from Mission Hall		12,949	-	-	-	12949	14,805
Bank Interest		1	-	-	-	1	38
		12,950	-	-	-	12950	14,843
<u>Income from Trading</u>							
	4						
Hall Rents		109	55	-	-	164	936
		109	55	-	-	164	936
<u>Other Receipts</u>							
	5						
Receipts for Weddings & Funerals		14,384	-	-	-	14384	18424
Sale Of Fixed Assets (Pews)		-	-	-	-	-	70
		14,384	-	-	-	14384	18,494

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, SHILDON
NOTES RELATING TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Note	Unrestricted Fund	Unrestricted Designated Fund	Restricted Fund	Endowment Fund	Total Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2020 £
Expenses		£	£	£	£		
<u>Clergy & Staffing Costs</u>	6						
Vicarage Expenses		234	-	-	-	234	616
Refunded Vicarage Expenses		(419)	-	-	-	(419)	-
Working Expenses of Clergy		659	-	-	-	659	1633
Visiting Clergy Fees		318	-	-	-	318	1325
Organists' Fees		120	-	-	-	120	1500
Vergers' Fees		1,065	-	-	-	1065	870
Assistant Staff Costs		-	-	-	-	-	209
Youth Work Expenses		14	300	36	-	350	25022
		1,991	300	36	-	2327	31175
<u>Church Running Expenses</u>	7						
Light & Heat		1,152	-	-	-	1152	4685
Insurance		4,417	-	-	-	4417	4478
Repairs & Maintenance		2,916	715	-	-	3631	27440
Water Rates		140	-	-	-	140	789
Cleaning		759	-	-	-	759	2511
Upkeep of Services		1,761	64	-	-	1825	1712
Post Stationery & Admin Costs		831	-	-	-	831	1284
Parish Training & Mission		160	-	-	-	160	500
		12,136	779	-	-	12915	43399
<u>Hall Running Costs</u>	8						
Light & Heat		2,910	-	-	-	2910	2993
Insurance		1,037	-	-	-	1037	1015
Repairs & Maintenance		1,203	-	-	-	1203	971
Water Rates		555	-	-	-	555	555
		5,705	-	-	-	5705	5,534
<u>Missionary Giving & Donations</u>	9						
Other Donations to Charities		-	-	89	-	89	2,655
Community Garden		40	-	-	-	40	127
Shildon Alive		-	-	-	-	-	115,747
Other Mission Expenses		444	-	-	-	444	15,813
Other Gifts & Donations		14	-	-	-	14	157
		498	-	89	-	587	134,499
<u>Costs of Trading</u>	10						
Licences & Other Expenses		204	-	-	-	204	603
		204	-	-	-	204	603
<u>Costs of Generating Funds</u>	11						
Assigned Fees for Weddings & Funerals		6959	-	-	-	6959	6,996
Cost of Fayres, Kitchen etc		137	-	-	-	137	310
		7096	-	-	-	7096	7,306
<u>Governance Costs</u>	12						
Independent Examination Costs		-	-	-	-	-	110
Quinquennial Inspection & Report Costs		854	-	-	-	854	-
		854	-	-	-	854	110

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, SHILDON
NOTES RELATING TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

**Movements in Restricted
& Designated Funds**

13

	Bal b/f	Restricted Receipts	Designated Receipts	Restricted Payments	Designated Payments	Transfers	Bal c/f
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Charity Donations	-	89	-	89	-	-	-
Knit & Knatter	396	-	-	-	-	-	396
Upkeep and Maintenance	994	-	3725	-	-	-	4,719
Bellringers	5,120	100	-	-	779	(735)	3,706
Youth Workers Wages	15,697	-	-	36	-	-	15,661
Youth Group	1,567	100	-	-	300	-	1,367
Community Project	(413)	-	-	-	-	-	(413)
Youth Assistant	2,360	-	-	-	-	-	2,360
Youth Gardening	-	1,000	-	-	-	-	1,000
Messy Church	-	523	103	-	-	-	626
	25,721	1,812	3,828	125	1,079	(735)	29,422
Restricted	1554						2,506
Designated	24167						26,916
	25,721						29,422

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, SHILDON
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2021

<u>Monetary Assets</u>	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u> £	<u>Designated Funds</u> £	<u>Restricted Funds</u> £	<u>2021</u> £	<u>Totals</u> <u>2020</u> £
Bank Current Account	14,792	26,916	2,506	44,214	42,997
14 Day Notice Deposit Account	-	-	-	-	17,901
CCLA Deposit	20,000	-	-	20,000	-
Upkeep & Maintenance Account	-	-	-	-	1,167
Cash in Hand	98	-	-	98	53
	<u>34,890</u>	<u>26,916</u>	<u>2,506</u>	<u>64,312</u>	<u>62,118</u>

Fixed Assets

**Fund to which
asset belongs**

Card Reader

Unrestricted

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PCC OF ST JOHN'S CHURCH, SHILDON

I report on the accounts for year ended 31 December 2021, which are set out on pages A2 to A6.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Independent Examiner

As the members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you 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
- 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. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC 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 statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

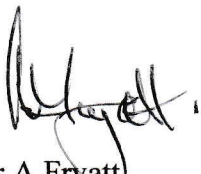
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

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

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the requirements of the 2011 Act

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.



Mr A Fryatt
14 Willow Road
Middlestone Moor
Spennymoor
DL16 7AR

14 March 2022

Accounts

Saint John's Church, Shildon

Annual Report April 2020 – April 2021



Administrative Information

St John's Church is situated on Church St, Shildon. It is part of the Diocese of Durham within the Church of England. The correspondence address is St John's Vicarage, 1A Burnie Gardens, Shildon, County Durham, DL4 1ND.

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Parish Organisation

Priest in Charge: Revd. Carol Harris
St John's Vicarage, 1A Burnie Gardens, Shildon, DL4 1ND
01388 778998 carol@shildonparish.org.uk

Curate: Revd. Frances Cooper
frances.cooper@durham.anglican.org

The PCC of St. John's Church, Shildon, has the responsibility for co-operating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

The PCC is a charity registered with the Charity Commission. Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected by the annual parochial church meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

During the year the following served as members of the PCC:

Church Wardens:	Mr. N. Cleasby (elected 2013) Mrs A. Todd (elected 2020)
Lay Chair:	Mr N. Cleasby
Treasurer:	Mr. P. Arnold
Secretary:	Mrs D. Truby
Deputy churchwarden:	Mr C. Bennett Mrs A. Sanderson
Members of the PCC:	Mrs L. Arnold Mrs. O. Bainbridge Mrs. D. Bennett Mrs A. Cleasby (Safeguarding Officer) Ms. J. Copland Mr. M. Fitzgerald Mr A. Harris Mr. T. Hillary

Deanery Synod Reps: Mr P. Arnold and Mr. C Bennett

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Clergy Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishops' Guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.)

Report on the electoral roll

The number on the revised electoral roll for 2021 has gone down by 8 people to a total of 96.

The electoral roll officer is Mrs Mary Harrison.

PCC Secretary's Report

During the national lockdown, due to the Covid 19 pandemic, we did not hold our annual AGM until October 2020.

Early in 2020 we interviewed and appointed Revd. Carol Harris as Priest in charge of our church, and also of St. Marks, Eldon. She was licenced on 24th June. On the same occasion Andy Harris was licenced as Reader to St. John's and St Mark's.

Through the year church services were closed from March and when we reopened they were severely restricted. Masks, one-way system and hand sanitiser became the norm.

During this time firstly the Revd. Mark Hudghton and then Revd. Carol conducted services via Facebook, which kept us virtually connected.

During October we welcomed Revd. Frances Cooper as our curate.

Our PCC meetings were conducted via Zoom. We held 4 meetings with a high attendance.

We have also been in contact via Zoom for fun quiz nights. Thanks to Paul, Lynne, Adele and Andy for the questions and "dingbats"

Members of the congregation kept in telephone contact with vulnerable and lonely members of the church.

Members of the PCC were invited to respond to a questionnaire in January. Revd. Carol collated the responses and all members of the PCC were sent an electronic copy and this was discussed at our meeting in March.

Sadly, last year we lost Joyce to illness, and we give thanks for her long service to our PCC. Paul stepped up as our new treasurer.

This year we welcomed to our PCC Revd. Frances Cooper, Andy Harris, Lynne Arnold and Jane Copland.

We said farewell to Eileen and Andrew Bowman, Elaine Dixon and we thank them for their years of service to our church.

We give grateful thanks to the Revd. Mark Hudghton and Revd. Peter Robson who cared for our spiritual lives during the Interregnum.

Mrs Dorothy Truby

Treasurers Report

As you are all aware, it has been a difficult time for us all lately with all the lockdowns and the church being shut. This is reflected in our 2020 accounts. There are significant differences between the 2019 and the 2020 figures These are due to the lockdowns and Shildon Alive being totally separated at the end of 2019.

Since being appointed treasurer on 21st October 2020 I have completed the following:-

- Brought all the accounts up to date at the end of 2020, as due to the sad loss of Joyce after her illness, they were five months behind.
- Submitted the accounts for audit.
- For 2021 I have replaced the old spreadsheet accounting system which was ten years old with a new one supplied by the diocese.
- I have changed all the addresses for the utility bills and bank statements which were still going to Joyce's address.
- I put together a budget in consultation with Carol for the year 2021. This was difficult due to the same reasons as above.
- We now have a reliable broadband connection in church which is £14 per month cheaper than it was, although we had to purchase a new router for this.
- We now have the correct signatories on the bank accounts except for the Maintenance and Upkeep account. This account is not linked to any of our other accounts and there was only one of the current signatories available so Carol and the churchwardens and I decided to close this account and put the balance in the main PCC account. The balance will be kept separate as is, for example, the Bellringers account. It will continue as before except for the monies being held within the main account.
- We have now access to Internet banking, with Carol, the churchwardens and I having access to the accounts. We are now able to set up payments online and pay people direct to their bank accounts instead of using cheques or cash. There are security procedures in place which means that it will take two of the signatories to confirm a transaction before it is made. This has the benefit of removing any payments in cash, saving us postage, envelopes and reducing trips to the bank which also helps reduce our carbon footprint. In addition, there is a hard audit trail for accounting purposes which is more secure and easier to manage.
- I have now obtained online access for the utilities. This enables me to see old bills and submit readings. Due to the situation over the last year, readings had not been sent since February 2020. As the utility companies have been sending us estimated bills, we had overpaid by £2,258. I have chased this and secured a total refund of £2,658 including the standing charges for the vicarage when it was empty, which were refunded by the diocese.
- We are actively looking at changing our suppliers. Once that is achieved, we can investigate getting smart meters installed which will eliminate the problem. Meanwhile, we have put in place a system for the meters to be read and submitted online monthly.
- Lynne Arnold (as gift aid co-ordinator) and I have undertaken Gift Aid and Treasurer training sessions with the Association of Church Accountants and Treasurers. We were confident we were doing most things correctly. The training confirmed this and was useful for picking up further ideas and for consolidating our knowledge.

Financial Review.

It is difficult to make a comparison between 2020 and 2019 due to the removal of Shildon Alive from our accounts, the effects of the pandemic and lockdowns and the interregnum until Carol arrived. A comparison has been made by discounting as far as possible the Shildon Alive transactions from our accounts for 2019.

Total receipts on the unrestricted General Fund were £81,843 and payments from this account totalled £84,184 giving a deficit of £2,340 which has been taken from our reserves.

The following is a snapshot of the year. There were reductions in receipts as follows:
- Planned Giving 17%, Collections 68%, Fundraising 90%, Mission Hall Rent 27% Weddings and Funerals 5%. There was an increase in the amount of gift aid recovered of 104%.

There were reductions in expenses as follows: - Parish Share 27%, Clergy and staffing costs 27%, Church running expenses 64% Mission Hall running costs 15%, Mission giving and donations 69%.

This gives an overall reduction of 8%. It should be noted that the reduction in Parish share almost matched the reduction in the giving income we received. From January 2021 we increased the Parish share back to the amount before it was reduced in 2020.

It has been a large undertaking in time to bring everything up to date, but now it should be quite straightforward and less time-consuming to keep on top of things. As soon as it is safe to do so, the finance committee will meet and we will discuss how we can ensure that if we are without a treasurer for any reason in the future, things can be continued easily.

Paul Arnold
PCC Treasurer
St. Johns Church.

Church Wardens' Fabric Report

March

Gas cooker purchased and replaced in upstairs kitchen.

Because of the lockdown the pandemic restrictions and the closure of the Church the annual Maintenance and servicing of the systems had to be delayed until June.

July

When we were able to open the Church again , all annual checks and servicing has been completed and up to date.

All guttering cleaned and loose tiles replaced.

August

Woodworm in garage treated.

November

Faulty smoke detector in porch replaced.

December

2 faulty emergency lights replaced.

An ongoing problem with the Hot water boiler in downstairs kitchen is still an ongoing problem.

February

Hopper and down drain pipes replaced to east side

March

problem with several lights in upstairs hall is in the process of being addressed.

Main boilers burner seals replaced.

Sound system in Church updated.

Mission Hall

November

Leak in roof repaired

Guttering cleaned

December

New light replaced in office

outside security lights repaired.

Property Register

The following have been added :

14 Tables

75 Chairs

Of the remaining pews that have been replaced by the chairs 4 have been sold, with 1 remaining pew to be used to make into a servery in the foyer. it was agreed by the PCC that a kind donation from The Every Other Tuesday Group of which our friend Joyce Petty was a member, that the donation would be used for the servery in memory of Joyce.

We thank you for all the support you have given us this past year

Neil Cleasby, Adele Todd, Carl Bennett.

Deanery Synod Report

We have had two deanery synod meetings on Zoom since last year's AGM. The first was on the 9th of December 2020 where we had a guest speaker Helen Whiteley from the Children's Society. Helen is the relationship manager for the Children's Society and local liaison for the diocese. The second meeting took place on the 10th of March 2021. Our topic was about mental health and how we can support people as a church.

Carl Bennett

Youth and Children's Activities

When Lockdown started all children's and youth activities were put on hold. Our youth workers, Kirstei Rae, and sessional youth worker, Megan McTearnen, were put on furlough but as both had fixed term contracts they were let go in the year.

St. John's CofE (Aided) School



Following the Easter holidays staff and pupils are back at school. This report was written before the Easter holidays.

Spring Term 2021 (Summary of current position when report written)

- School closed to 'all pupils' from Tuesday 5th January 2021 following the latest Government imposed lockdown
- However, school has remained open for vulnerable children, those with Education Health Care Plans and those of key workers. As a result, 33% of school pupils are currently attending, and 50% of Nursery pupils.
- Remote Learning has been provided for all pupils not attending and in the majority of cases engagement has been good.
- Work has been provided to support the individual needs of pupils.
- We have received a total of 51 laptops from the Department for Education to support home learning.
- All Staff are combining working in school and working from home.
- All children/families have received a weekly welfare call from their Teacher or Teaching Assistant.
- We have been affected by families suffering bereavement due to COVID 19.
- We are looking forward to all pupils returning to school on 8th March.

Church Links and Services (Autumn Term – Taken directly from Head Teacher's Report to Governing Body)

Christmas 2020

Christingle Service

At the end of the Autumn Term, Thursday 17th December, we held a virtual Christingle Service for the whole school. Due to COVID-19 restrictions we were unable to meet together for our Christmas service in St. John's Church.

The whole service was planned by Mr Kay (RE subject lead) and was joined by twelve children from Years 5 and 6. For three weeks, the children practised and learned the songs with the support of Mrs Pallister and Mr Kay.

From the Hall, the children led the readings and prayers, as well as the worship through carols and Christmas songs. Revd Carol began and ended the service. Each class 'joined' the online service via Microsoft Teams. It ended with all children lighting their own Christingles

in the classrooms, sharing together the symbols of light and hope, particularly in these dark days in which we are living.

The successful service was recorded and uploaded to our school YouTube channel where it received almost 900 views! We felt it was very important for us to share this special event with our parents, friends and local community

Angels in Shildon

To strengthen our links with St. John's Church, we joined with their 2020 theme of 'Angels - Bringing Hope to a Dark World.' Despite the current restrictions, we have continued to meet with Revd. Carol and develop shared ideas for the community: bringing hope of the Angels' message from the Nativity story and into our lives today.

As part of this initiative, two staff members undertook the tremendous task of creating a 12-foot 'scarecrow angel' which was placed just inside the school gates. This caused much happiness and joy amongst children and parents.

Each child also made two angels including a positive message of hope. One of these angels went home with each of the children and the other was donated to various local groups: Shildon Alive, Redworth House Care Home and Holly Lodge. Our desire was to share our hope and joy in our community, hoping to bring love and happiness to those who saw them.

Messages of Hope

As part of St. John's Church's outreach, Revd. Carol asked each class in school to prepare a colourful A3 poster to be displayed on the church noticeboard. Our positive Christmas messages shared the joyful news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ: Hope, Joy, Peace, Love and Family.

Christmas Poetry

One of our Year 5 girls independently created her own beautiful seasonal poem entitled 'The Greatest Gift'. It speaks of the wonderful love and saving power of Jesus Christ to all those who believe in Him – God's gift of love to the World. Again, we shared her poetry reading on our school YouTube channel.

Class Worship at Christmas

Throughout the whole Christmas period, we continued to celebrate the story of Christmas by sharing each section with the children in daily Class Worship sessions for the last two weeks of term. In these times of worship, we were able to discuss and deepen our children's understanding of the significance of the different events which occurred in the Nativity story.

The Gospel and the teachings of Jesus are at the heart of all we seek to do at St. John's on a daily basis. We desire that all our children, staff, parents and friends experience the truth of John 10:10, where Jesus said, "My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life."

Andrew Kay 16.1.21

Collective Worship

This continues to be class based built around a weekly theme and key idea. Each week Revd. Carol sends in a short filmclip to support this.

Following another lockdown, we are planning for this to continue, with children working at home also accessing the video link.

Shildon Alive

Our links with Shildon Alive have developed well this year. We promoted their work through our website and newsletters, and were able to connect some families for further support.

We were successful in setting up the link for contributing surplus food. It is great news that these contributions are collected by the volunteers and quickly put to use by the chefs.

We donated a number of Free School meals 'food parcels' that were ordered but not collected by parents.

Throughout the lockdown we continued to promote the support work of Shildon Alive and direct families through our regular welfare calls and other means of communication.

Easter 2021

We are currently planning an on-line Easter Service. (*This was shared on the School You Tube channel with pupils and families in the last week of the Easter term.*)

School Developments

Participation in Mental Health Trailblazer: Support Worker in school on a weekly basis.

Special Events and Activities - including Visits and Visitors (Autumn 2020)

We continue to work with external partners in school where possible although there were no curriculum visits or other off site activities. The activities completed are listed below:

- Yoga
- Hula Hoop and Skipping Days.
- Class based 'Cooking Activities'.
- Specialist Music Teaching.
- Whole School attending on-line 'interactive' Pantomime.

Andrew Farnell March 2021

Bell Ringers

The bell ringers finally managed to ring on the refurbished bells before Covid hit which was great.

All the insulation is in the bell chamber but still needs fitting which again has been hampered by Covid but hopefully before too long this will get sorted.

We did manage to ring for a short while in the summer of 2020, but we were restricted to a maximum of 15 minutes ringing time including ringing up and down and also restricted to four ringers because of social distancing. Ringing with a mask on also brought its challenges and unfortunately it meant that those who had been learning to ring were not able to join us because of the regulations. Here's hoping from Summer 2021 we can get back to ringing for weddings once again and back to teaching new ringers.

Looking to the future it would be great if we could finally have our rededication of the bells service and to invite all those who helped in any way whatsoever with the work we undertook, whether it was financially or physically, to say a huge thank you to them all along with the congregation of St John's.

Trevor Thompson and Davina Tomlinson

Church Flowers

We have been able to continue to arrange flowers when the Church has been open on occasions and for services.

We would like to thank you for your support and donations to enable us to continue to do this.

Adele Todd

Housegroups

Due to the pandemic no groups have been able to meet physically since March 2020.

Dean Street house group report

As a housegroup we only managed to meet twice in 2020 due to the Covid epidemic. However, we have continued to support each other on an almost daily basis through the messaging group that we have. With people sharing daily prayers of reflections, funny thoughts, or prayer requests.

During Lent we have been going through Sister Wendy Beckett's book entitled the Art of Lent with a different painting each day and her thoughts on this which has at time generated some good discussions.

WE are looking forward to when we can once again meet in person at Trevor's and for fuller bible studies to recommence.

Davina Tomlinson

Disability Representative

Mrs Lesley Pocklington continues to be the St John's disability rep. Again as the church has been closed or had limited services there has been nothing for her to report this year. She had hoped to start a support group for disabled people in the church building in 2020 and hopes that this may be possible in 2021.

Social and Fundraising

Due to the pandemic there have been no social and fundraising activities this year.

Curate's Report

I was very fortunate in 2016/2017 to serve a six months placement in the parish of St John's Shildon whilst Reverend David Tomlinson was priest in charge. I very much enjoyed the placement and had a brief insight into the life of the community of Shildon and the church family. It had been my hope to serve my curacy in this parish but it was not to be and I was placed elsewhere after ordination. After serving three and a half years in the parishes of Gainford and Winston and Bishop Auckland the opportunity arose for me to be placed in the parish of Shildon and Eldon. I was absolutely delighted.

My time spent in this parish have been very different from my last placement as I came this time as an ordained priest. It has been wonderful to work with Carol and Andy, they are great to work with and have such a heart for this community. It has also been my delight to work again with the faithful people of this church and to engage with families outside of church through funeral ministry. It is my hope that the Diocese will allow me to stay as an Associate Priest. God is at work in this place and is calling us to so many great things, I look forward to the journey with you all.

Revd. Frances Cooper

Minister's Report April 2020 – April 2021

Arrival

Andy and I moved in June to join you in Shildon. On the 24th June I was licensed as priest in charge of St John's and assistant priest in charge of St Mark's Eldon. Andy took up a licence at the same time as lay reader to both parishes.

Revd. Mark Hudghton and the Revd. Peter Robson

Before we arrived the Revd. Peter Robson and the Revd. Mark Hudghton had been ministering here as priests, Mark finishing his curacy and Peter having been seconded for 2.5 days a week to support the transition after the Revd. David Tomlinson moved into new ministry. From 22nd March St John's Church was closed for services and Mark alongside his wife, the Revd. Emily Hudghton, created lively inspiring worship which was streamed every Sunday during the service time on Facebook. Many people engaged with this. Through this time Peter kept in touch through phone calls and postcards with all those shielding on the electoral roll.

My time here overlapped with Mark for just a few weeks until 12th July and Peter until 27th September. It was a joy to minister alongside them and they helped me immensely in settling into the parish, particularly as so much was in lockdown at the time. I know how much they were loved and appreciated here at St John's for who they were and everything they had given to the church and the community. Everyone was sad to see them move onto

their new parishes, including myself, but both have moved onto new ministries. As I look back over 2020, I'm sure you, with me, want to say an enormous 'thank you' to them and will continue to hold them in your prayers in their new parishes.

Farewells

Other sad farewells this year have included the number of beloved church members and family members who have died over the year. These have included Jack Coley, Sylvia Barraclough, Debra Plews, Sylvia Little, John Harrison, Joyce Petty, Jean Foster, Robert Stophair, Val Owens, Eileen Richardson, Alan Todd and Bill Harding. We continue to pray for God's love to surround and comfort their families and we know that through Jesus' death and resurrection we have the eternal hope of life that goes on beyond the grave.

Revd. Frances Cooper

On 4th October 2020 Revd. Frances Cooper joined us here at St John's to complete her curacy. Frances and myself were ordained at the same time and trained together and it has been and is wonderful to have the opportunity to minister together. I hope that she will be able to stay in the parish as an Associate Priest.

Services in the year

In July 2020 the PCC took the decision to reopen St John's first for private prayer and then for Sunday and Thursday morning services. The first Sunday service back at church was 19th July. Full risk assessments were completed and strict Covid guidelines were put in place. Through the year the services have continued apart from between 8th November and the middle of December and between 10th January and 14th March 2021, when the church was closed again and services were solely livestreamed. Livestreaming is continuing for those who are shielding so they are able to join with us in worshipping together, even though physically apart. In September we also started a phone-in Evening Prayer which changed to Zoom in November. This has provided another opportunity to gather to worship together which is appreciated particularly by those who cannot come to church at present due to shielding.

The new PCC

The Annual Meeting was put back until October because of restrictions and since then the new PCC have had to meet virtually on Zoom. I would like to thank everyone on the PCC for their hard work and support in a very unusual year.

At the Annual Meeting Adele Todd took up a new role as Churchwarden alongside Neil Cleasby with Carl Bennett and Ann Sanderson completing the warden team as Assistant Wardens. Paul Arnold took over the role as Church Treasurer. New members of the PCC were Jane Copland, Lynne Arnold and Andy Harris. Thanks go to all again for their commitment and hard work for the church this year.

Highlights

As I look back over a year when so much was not possible, many highlights stand out for me. These include my licensing; opening up for services and being able to physically worship together; working with everyone at Shildon Alive and seeing the amazing work they do; the All Souls open church evening; being able to attend in person the Christingle at St John's School and meeting some of the children and working with staff through the terms; all the angel events at Christmas alongside the installation outside; the Zoom socials; the beautiful flowers in church through the year and how amazing the church looked at Christmas ; being able to start baptisms in church again; the Zoom lent course and both Easter services, the sunrise service and the morning service culminating in actually singing together outside!

It has been such a joy to get to know so many of you, it seems such a long time since we arrived and yet we have not been here a year! Thank you for your welcome to Andy and myself when we arrived, and we look forward to working together with you to follow where God is leading us as a church as we move forward in 2021 and beyond.





Moving forward

I am really looking forward to the time when we can mix freely again and return to 'normality' but this time of stopping has given an opportunity to reflect and pray on where we are as a church. Everything should not return automatically to how it has always been done just because it has always been done a particular way. Recently members of the PCC spent time individually reflecting and praying about some open questions asking what they value and hold dear in St John's, as well as which areas give hope and anxiety as they look to the future.

A clear consensus emerged from the responses. These included the value placed on relationships within church, how being a church family together is important as well as

being a welcoming church with an outward focus to the community. People are proud of Shildon Alive as a church project and how it shines Jesus' love in the community, and love being involved and supporting as and when able. They also love seeing the community enjoying social events, coffee mornings and the fayres in the church building. The church's relationship with St John's School is held highly, as is the strong emphasis the church has had on children and young people in the past. The church building is very precious to people; many described the sense of God's presence they feel upon entering it and many described how important worship is to them and the various aspects of worship they hold dear, as well as where they particularly encounter God with a lot talking about the Eucharist and experiences of the Holy Spirit. Responding to a question about hopes for the future there was much optimism and expectation around God leading us and showing the way forward, of how the church must continue to look outwards and remember the good things going on before lockdown and looking to how these can be developed in the future. Many anxieties for the future were also shared by most of the group. These included the lack of children, young people, young families and generally people under 50 in the congregation, alongside the age of the present congregation as a whole and the loss of income due to the pandemic.

It is good to stop and reflect, to recognise where we are at this moment as a church. There is much to celebrate and much to ponder, but also the need to listen and look to see where God is leading us. God is with us, and the anxieties listed are not problems we are trying to solve on a human level. I hope, with me, you will continue to pray for our church and listen to God as we go forward through this year and into the future. May each of us, both as individuals and as a church community, continue to shine the light and love of Jesus in our town. This year may we see many coming to know that love and light for themselves, and may we grow in our own discipleship and in our own love of God in 2021.

When I arrived, I spoke about John 15 on my first Sunday. In the passage Jesus talks about himself as the vine. We are attached to him as branches through which his life flows and through which we are bound together in love. He commands us to love one another as he has loved us. As Jesus asserts in that passage – 'without me you can do nothing, remain in me and I will remain in you' – may we as a church continue to remain in Jesus and may we produce much fruit in his name.

Revd. Carol Harris, April 2021

Shildon Alive, A St John's Church Project AGM Report 2020

Our team of staff and volunteers have had a challenging second year, we had to close the premises at the end of March 2020 as we were not Covid safe and like many other projects and businesses we were unsure and scared about COVID 19. We spent a week getting the foodbank area of our project back open and Covid ready and we turned the community centre into a larger foodbank and distribution point. With the support of our local MP we collected several tonnes of food from pubs and restaurants which had to close and distributed it to foodbanks and volunteer teams in the towns and villages surrounding us. Some staff worked from home answering our helpline and other staff came in as drivers to support our team of volunteer drivers. Our volunteer driver team came from our Shildon Town Council team and furloughed staff from the retail sector as well as volunteers from same family groups. We needed to keep the team small and from same households to ensure we could adhere to covid rules. We had a team based at the community centre making the parcels and sanitising them and a team of volunteer drivers who distributed them to families in crisis and vulnerable residents who were shielding. The first few weeks were extremely challenging because we could not purchase some items due to issues with some individuals panic buying and restrictions being placed on various items. The Auckland project supported us and many other projects across the area by producing nutritious frozen meals to add to the crisis parcels.



Referrals came in from County Durham hubs, our local MP and a number of distressed family members of our older residents who couldn't be near them as they lived in other parts of the country.

Community shop and takeaway:

We closed the shop and takeaway for 3 months while we concentrated on running the crisis food support and thanks to a lottery uplift grant we had the funds to make the shop and takeaway counter covid safe.

Whilst the takeaway was closed one of our new volunteers produced hot meals twice a week for some of our shielding residents. We also worked closely with The Auckland Project who prepared, frozen meals for us to distribute with our food crisis support parcels. We received grant funding from Bishop Auckland and Shildon AAP, County Durham Community Foundation, Scotto charitable trust and DEFRA to support our food collection and distribution costs.

We were able to employ a food coordinator in July thanks to an uplift from the Big Lottery Fund.





She had previously ran her own catering business as well as managing a large school kitchen team. She brings so much to the team and is an excellent baker and chef. She is always coming up with new and exciting ideas for young people and the community and she ran Fruity Fun sessions with school children all through the holidays (we even dressed up as fruit and handed out recipe cards and muffins to young people around the town). We now offer a free nutritious meal for all children or donation for adults, 6 days per week.

We now have 6 volunteer drivers and 1 self-employed driver who collect food surplus from supermarkets, wholesalers and local businesses, we are also members of 'Fareshare Go' and get weekly deliveries of food surplus from this project. The food we get is displayed in the community fridge and shelves as you first walk into the shop on the left, we encourage people to take a basket, fill it and leave a donation at the checkout. This is for everyone in the community and helps to prevent food waste as well as make the hub an easier, inclusive space. Over the last year of collecting, we have redistributed 29 tonnes of food which was destined for landfill whilst helping families and individuals reduce their shopping bills and access fresh fruit and vegetables. They also offer a hot meal delivery service to members of the community 4 days per week.

The team are also researching how we can work with the probation service to mentor and train an individual back into employment. We also employ a young worker on a Saturday which they both mentor.

The takeaway offers food on a pay as you feel basis as well as free hot meals for school age children during school holidays and a free breakfast during term time.

We welcomed a new member of the team, in June, she has done an amazing job of keeping us clean and safe during the past few months. Not sure how we ever managed without her! She is thorough and vigilant and came with excellent references from our local council. She fits in brilliantly with the team and it is like she has been there forever!

She has also started offering free breakfasts to school children as pass the building on a morning and this has been a great success. We tried it for 3 months and distributed 321 breakfast snacks. Items include bacon and tomato muffins and homemade cereal bars. We have secured funding to continue running the breakfast club during term time.

Advocacy support: Our Advocate offers support with benefit claims and enquiries, housing issues, debts/arrears, food crisis (we offer a 3-4 day crisis food parcel) and small grants for household goods, rent arrears or utilities. The advocate usually

works on an appointment basis as well as drop in and has supported individuals over the year. Face to face advocacy was placed on hold from March- July whilst the whole project was closed. Telephone advocacy did take place in this period for simple issues such as reporting a fit note on Universal Credit journals and writing letters on behalf of others to numerous agencies. ACTS 435 was still accessible and grants were submitted for those experiencing a crisis during the difficult times we were facing. The main face to face advocacy sessions that have taken place over the year are completing Personal Independence Payment Forms and housing issues, both social housing and private lettings. This has mainly been due to lengthy waiting times for repairs and issues with Durham Key Options (social housing) and disrepair of properties (private lettings). We also received funding from Faith in our Community to help families with underwear, socks and PE kits for school age children. The families were so grateful for the support.

Many of these individuals have benefited from small grants up to the value of £150 ACTS 435. This year's grant total £5070 is helping 45 individuals.

Success Stories:

A has lived in England for 16 years, after moving from a different country and has 2 children. Her children were born in England. Despite two applications to the Home Office, she does still not have permanent right to reside and is currently on a 5 year parent and child route (commenced in 2019) which will then give her permanent residency. She has always been identified as a British Overseas Citizen which means she is not entitled to state benefits. When her first child was born in 2008, she applied for Child Benefit as she thought due him being born in England, she would be entitled to this benefit. All documents needed to support the application were sent such as her passport and his birth certificate (her passport states 'no recourse to public funds'). She was granted Child Benefit and this continued when her second child was born and added to the claim. In August 2020, she received a letter stating she was no longer entitled to Child Benefit nor had she ever been entitled, and she had an over payment of £12,563.60. This caused high levels of stress and anxiety for her. Upon reading all of the documentation from both Child Benefit and Home Office, it was evident there was a clear point of argument on her behalf. She was supported to contact Child Benefit who suggested a Mandatory Reconsideration Letter to be submitted. The relevant information relating to the claim was gathered and a Mandatory Reconsideration Letter was written on her behalf explaining each stage of the claim from the beginning. In December 2020, she received a letter stating the overpayment had been disregarded, she was not entitled to Child Benefit any longer however she would not receive any further correspondence from them.

B has been deaf from being born and he has a local part time job. He has always been in receipt of Disability Living Allowance however due to the recent change in benefits, he had to apply for Personal Independence Payment which would replace DLA. Recently he has also been prescribed medication for arthritis in his hands and feet. He was supported to complete his PIP form and this health condition was added. He was declined PIP and a Mandatory Reconsideration Letter was written on

his behalf which argued against their decision and asked a decision maker to look at the claim again. He did not have any response from PIP for nearly 6 months (due to the current pandemic) therefore he was not in receipt of any disability benefit for this time, reducing his income. In November 2020. He received a letter stating the decision had been changed and he was entitled to enhanced rate of care and mobility. He received his back dated payment into his bank at the end of November and his payments are now in place for each month.

In both stories above, without support they would have found it difficult to fight against the decisions made and would have both resulted in reduction of income.

Food crisis support for 2020 has increased from previous years. This is due to the Covid 19 pandemic. In total over the year, we have provided:

Food parcels provided: 1082

Number of people supported: 1914

Number of meals provided: 17226.

Food parcels are still accessed by self-referral (which is monitored by staff to ensure the service is not abused) or by service referral for example: GP, Probation, Social Services. During the first lockdown (March – July) we were contacted regularly by the Local Authority Covid Hubs for food support as they explained they were finding it difficult to find food banks that were open and offering a delivery service therefore we covered Shildon and other areas to support as many individuals as we could.

Lifting Loneliness Telephone Befriending Service:

The initial process of commencing this service began with finding volunteers who felt they could make a difference to those living with the feelings of loneliness and isolation within our community. As Shildon Alive is predominantly volunteer ran, The co-ordinator was able to recruit active volunteers therefore I did not have to access the community to do this.

Initially 4 volunteers were interested, and we began the process of completing a Disclosure and Barring Service check. This was a long process due to the current Covid situation and arranging appointments safely with the volunteers and the Vicar to complete the forms and verify identification documents. 6 mobile phones and pay as you go SIM cards were purchased and set up ready for the service to begin.

In the meantime, the co-ordinator completed telephone befriending coordinators training with Twos Company whom we paid £100 donation to support with the safe running of the service. She gathered a lot of information from this and they continue to support where needed. They also shared many documents of importance which are used to monitor the telephone service. They were of great value and are all placed in the volunteer folders. All the volunteers were also enrolled onto an effective listening training course which was ran via Zoom. The co-ordinator was present whilst this took place and felt the information received and knowledge they gained was valuable. Once all DBS checks were back, the service was promoted on social

media and circulated round other health care organisations such as mental health services and social care. We were unable to promote this via our town community newspaper due to the current situation.

Referrals began coming in (both self-referral and health care referrals) and once they were reviewed by the co-ordinator, she assigned each client with a volunteer and sent the client an introduction letter clearly explaining who their volunteer would be and they would be in touch within a week. Once the initial telephone contact is made between the volunteer and the client, they arrange a day and time of contact that suits them both. We currently have 6 clients and 3 volunteers. We regularly promote the service upon social media and word of mouth and have recently appealed for more volunteers as we feel due to the recent national lockdown, more people will be referred to the service.

Credit Union:

We closed the credit union collection point at the end of March and reopened in June after putting Covid secure measures in place. We have currently have 3 volunteers and 1 staff running our credit union counter and we currently have between 20 and 30 savers per week. This does not include online savers. Many people started saving by BACS due to Covid 19 restrictions.

Community hub and Youth:

The Community hub and Youth Group unfortunately was put on hold at the end of March due to Covid 19. The hub is closed to the general public and was set up as an overflow food bank and food parcel collection point for volunteers to make and distribute crisis parcels to vulnerable residents. We have offered activity packs throughout the year for young people in our community along with free hot meals. Also as a member of Shildon Children and Young People's Action Network, we have detached youth workers in the town, one evening per week. This is funded by the Ron Hogg fund and operated by Auckland Youth and Community.

During the summer holidays, our community champion Tracy, ran weekly Fruity Fun smoothie and Ice lolly making sessions. This was a lovely activity which put a smile on lots of faces. The Fruity Fun sessions were fully booked for the school holidays. Children worked in family bubbles and made fruity ice lollies and smoothies to take home and also learned new skills such as apple coring and cherry putting.

Our new Chair and Priest in charge organised an angel hunt in the Christmas school holidays, she talked about hope and how angels were messengers of hope. All of the local schools got involved in making Angels to go in windows in the town and young people had to find the angels. All young people taking part received a prize.



Guerrilla Gardening / Gardening:

This year we unfortunately had to cancel our children's gardening sessions and ran one plot to plate, gardening and cooking session with a group of 16 young people. We picked the produce from our community garden, which our adult gardeners had kindly planted for us and Tracy, our food coordinator cooked with it at the community kitchen.

Our adult gardening volunteers kept both community gardens clean and tidy and planted produce for our Shelves for all scheme and the community and young people to enjoy. One of our gardeners commented, 'It gave me a reason to keep going, knowing that the food I was planting was going to good use,'

We took part in a campaign ran by the WWF 'Stand up to British Standards', It was a campaign to support our local farmers to maintain standards following fears that standards would be lowered during Brexit deals. We were given 'Ashley' the scarecrow and people took selfies with her whilst scanning a QR code to show their commitment to our farmers and our standards.



Recognition:

Winners of the Northern Echo, County Durham Together Awards.

Community Voluntary Group of the Year.

We were thanked by Her Majesty's Lord -Lieutenant Sue Snowden for our work during the pandemic.



Volunteer opportunities:

Volunteer roles were limited in 2020 and we had a small team of volunteer drivers and a small group working in the foodbank. Sadly, many of our usual volunteers had to shield due to ill health. One of our volunteers who ran her own hot food business, produced nutritious hot meals for our shielding residents which she delivered twice weekly. We have currently have several volunteer opportunities available, credit union collection point worker, food preparation, community shop counter assistant, laptop support, driver, advocacy and gardening volunteers. We currently have 22 regular volunteers and 5 casual volunteers. We have recently started recruiting again.

Opening times:

Shildon Alive 91-95 Church Street DL4 1DT

Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 9:00-3:00 Wed and Sat 9:30-12:30 Tel:01388417600

<http://shildonalive.org.uk/>

**Community food donation for foodbank:**

15125 items

Fundraising and donations:

Our donations during covid have been overwhelming, individuals have done sponsored walks, covid safe fundraising events as well as individuals and groups giving cash and cheque donations. PPG industries, Asda and TJ Manners all gave us extremely generous monetary donations to support us to support others. Please see the spread sheet for amounts.

Hub footfall:

Staff: 721

Visitors: 243

Community gardens footfall:

Waverly terrace garden 228

Furnace community garden 287

Staff training:

PIP 1

Managing volunteer 1

Telephone befriending coordinator with Twos company 1

Diocese of Durham Safeguarding C2 1

Volunteer training:

Diocese of Durham Safeguarding C1 4

Dementia awareness 2

Young people's mental health 1

Understanding Autism 1

Effective teamwork 1

Effective listening skills 4



We would like to say a huge thanks to everyone at St John's Church, Faith in our Community, Shildon Town Council, LIVIN, Garfield Weston Foundation, Bishop Auckland and Shildon AAP, ACTS 435, County Durham Community Foundation, The Auckland project, 'closed doors open hearts', Tesco, Asda, Sainsburys, Greggs, Morrison's, CO-OP, Aldi, Lidl, Greenfield Community College, St Johns C of E Primary School, Timothy Hackworth Primary School, Thornhill Primary school, Byerley Road Pre-school, Scotto charitable trust, Shildon AFC supporters club, Busy Bees, Bookers wholesale and The National Lottery Community Fund for giving us the chance to make a difference in our town and surrounding villages. The volunteers are inspiring and with your support they feel empowered allowing their aspirations for their families and community to be nurtured.

Paula and team

Reverend C Harris,
St John's Vicarage,
1A Burnie Gardens,
Shildon
Co Durham
DL4 1ND

2 March 2021

Dear Reverend Harris,

St. John's Church

I am enclosing two copies of the financial accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020, as agreed. The accounts have also been attached to an email sent today.

If you would let me have a copy of the annual reports that accompany the accounts, when available, that would be appreciated.

There are some historic differences in some of the balances on the Fund Accounts due to adjustments made in previous years and I have adjusted the Youth Workers Wages Fund balance as discussed. Perhaps it would be wise to have the balances brought into line before we prepare next year's accounts, something we can discuss when some sort of normality returns.

The payments for the chairs and other furniture were as set out below. All the payments were to Alpha Furnishings and were paid from the Upkeep and Maintenance account therefore any invoices will probably be filed with those working papers.

29/05/2018	-	£3683.91
25/07/2018	-	£11051.73
18/02/2020	-	£1165.67
19/05/2020	-	£3496.99

Obviously if there are any questions please get in touch and I will attempt to answer them.

Yours sincerely,



INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PCC OF ST JOHN'S CHURCH, SHILDON

I report on the accounts for year ended 31 December 2020, which are set out on pages A2 to A6.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Independent Examiner

As the members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you 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
- 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. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC 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 statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

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

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

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the requirements of the 2011 Act
- 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.



Mr A Fryatt
14 Willow Road
Middlestone Moor
Spennymoor
DL16 7AR

2 March 2021

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, SHILDON
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

	Note	Unrestricted Fund	Unrestricted Designated Fund	Restricted Fund	Endowment Fund	Total Funds 2020	Total Funds 2019
		£	£	£	£	£	£
RECEIPTS							
Voluntary Receipts:							
Planned Giving		18,019				18,019	21789
Collections		2,834				2,834	8756
Gift Aid Recovered		7,411		143		7,554	3705
All Other Giving/Voluntary	1	3,283	2,720	4,867		10,870	165514
		31,547	2,720	5,010	-	39,277	199764
Activities for Generating Funds							
	2	593	365	-	-	958	8927
Investment Income							
	3	10,795	-	-	-	10,795	14843
Church Activities:							
Income from Trading	4	-	349	-	-	349	936
Other Receipts	5	17,559	8,963	140	-	26,662	18494
		17,559	9,312	140	-	27,011	19430
Total Receipts		60,494	12,397	5,150	-	78,041	242964
PAYMENTS							
Church Activities:							
Parish Share		23,840				23,840	32611
Clergy and Staffing Costs	6	3,629		19,141		22,770	31175
Church Running Expenses	7	13,538	1,884	-	-	15,422	43399
Hall Running Costs	8	4,699	-	-	-	4,699	5534
Mission Giving and Donations	9	3,061	328	416	-	3,805	134499
Costs of Trading	10	193	-	-	-	193	603
Asset Purchases			4,663	-	-	4,663	2128
		48,960	6,875	19,557	-	75,392	249949
Cost of Generating Funds							
	11	9,122	-	-	-	9,122	8311
Governance Costs							
	12	108	-	-	-	108	110
Total Payments		58,190	6,875	19,557	-	84,622	258370
Excess of Receipts over Payments	13	2,304	5,522	(14,407)	-	(6,581)	(15,406)
Transfers between funds							
		-	-	-	-	-	-
Cash at Bank and in Hand 1 Jan		34,093	18,645	15,961	-	68,699	84105
Cash at Bank and in Hand 31 Dec		36,397	24,167	1,554	-	62,118	68699

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, SHILDON
NOTES RELATING TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Note	Unrestricted Fund £	Unrestricted Designated Fund £	Restricted Fund £	Endowment Fund £	Total Funds 2020 £	Total Funds 2019 £
Receipts							
<u>All Other Giving/Voluntary Receipts</u>	1						
Donations, appeals etc.		3,283	2,720	4,867	-	10870	51785
Big Lottery Fund		-	-	-	-	-	113729
		3283	2720	4867	-	10870	165514
<u>Activities for Generating Funds</u>							
Summer Fayre	2	-	-	-	-	-	1506
Christmas Fayre		-	-	-	-	-	1927
MacMillan Coffee Morning		-	-	-	-	-	233
Beetle Drive		133	-	-	-	133	-
Film Afternoons		-	95	-	-	95	192
Pie & Peas Supper & Bingo		208	-	-	-	208	-
Bellringers Fundraising		-	-	-	-	-	1,100
Other Events		-	-	-	-	-	1262
Tea & Coffee/Coffee Mornings		252	270	-	-	521	1779
Bus & Boat Trip		-	-	-	-	-	765
Windermere Boat & Train Trip		-	-	-	-	-	138
Barbeque		-	-	-	-	-	25
		593	365	-	-	958	8,927
<u>Investment Income</u>							
Rent from Mission Hall	3	10,778	-	-	-	10,778	14,805
Bank Interest		17	-	-	-	17	38
		10,795	-	-	-	10,795	14,843
<u>Income from Trading</u>							
Hall Rents	4	-	349	-	-	349	936
Advertising in Magazine		-	-	-	-	-	-
		-	349	-	-	349	936
<u>Other Receipts</u>							
Receipts for Weddings & Funerals	5	17,435	-	-	-	17,435	18424
Sundry Income		30	-	140	-	170	-
Job Retention Scheme Grants		94	8,963	-	-	9,057	-
Sale Of Fixed Assets (Pews)		-	-	-	-	-	70
		17,559	8,963	140	-	26,662	18,494

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, SHILDON
NOTES RELATING TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Note	Unrestricted Fund	Unrestricted Designated Fund	Restricted Fund	Endowment Fund	Total Funds 2020 £	Total Funds 2019 £
<u>Expenses</u>		£	£	£	£		
<u>Clergy & Staffing Costs</u>	6						
Vicarage Expenses		217	-	-	-	217	616
Working Expenses of Clergy		849	-	-	-	849	1633
Visiting Clergy Fees		1,333	-	-	-	1,333	1325
Organists' Fees		480	-	-	-	480	1500
Vergers' Fees		750	-	-	-	750	870
Assistant Staff Costs		-	-	-	-	-	209
Youth Work Expenses		-	-	19,141	-	19,141	25022
		3,629	-	19,141	-	22,770	31175
<u>Church Running Expenses</u>	7						
Light & Heat		5,273	-	-	-	5,273	4685
Insurance		2,586	-	-	-	2,586	4478
Repairs & Maintenance		2,167	1,749	-	-	3,916	27440
Water Rates		331	-	-	-	331	789
Cleaning		1,206	-	-	-	1,206	2511
Upkeep of Services		1,195	135	-	-	1,330	1712
Post Stationery & Admin Costs		780	-	-	-	780	1284
Parish Training & Mission		-	-	-	-	-	500
		13,538	1,884	-	-	15,422	43399
<u>Hall Running Costs</u>	8						
Light & Heat		2,532	-	-	-	2,532	2993
Insurance		1,035	-	-	-	1,035	1015
Repairs & Maintenance		577	-	-	-	577	971
Water Rates		555	-	-	-	555	555
		4,699	-	-	-	4,699	5,534
<u>Missionary Giving & Donations</u>	9						
Other Donations to Charities		98	-	416	-	514	2,655
Community Garden		40	-	-	-	40	127
Shildon Alive		2,280	-	-	-	2,280	115,747
Other Mission Expenses		303	328	-	-	631	15,813
Other Gifts & Donations		340	-	-	-	340	157
		3,061	328	416	-	3,805	134,499
<u>Costs of Trading</u>	10						
Licences & Other Expenses		193	-	-	-	193	603
		193	-	-	-	193	603
<u>Costs of Generating Funds</u>	11						
Assigned Fees for Weddings & Funerals		9086	-	-	-	9,086	6,996
Cost of Fayres, Kitchen etc		36	-	-	-	36	310
Performers & Other Expenses for Events		-	-	-	-	-	1,005
		9122	-	-	-	9,122	8,311
<u>Governance Costs</u>	12						
Independent Examination Costs		108	-	-	-	108	110
		108	-	-	-	108	110

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, SHILDON
NOTES RELATING TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

**Movements in Restricted
& Designated Funds**

13

	Bal b/f	Restricted Receipts	Designated Receipts	Restricted Payments	Designated Payments	Transfers	Bal c/f
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Charity Donations	389	27	-	416	-	-	-
Knit & Knatter	396	-	-	-	-	-	396
Upkeep and Maintenance	4,943	-	714	-	4,663	-	994
Bellringers	6,571	433	-	-	1,884	-	5,120
Youth Workers Wages	17,050	4,550	10,158	16,061	-	-	15,697
Youth Group	1,755	140	-	-	328	-	1,567
Community Project	- 413	-	-	-	-	- -	413
Youth Assistant	3,915	-	1525	3,080	-	-	2,360
	34,606	5,150	12,397	19,557	6,875	-	25,721
Restricted	15961						1,554
Designated	18645						24,167
	34,606						25,721

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, SHILDON
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

<u>Monetary Assets</u>	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u> £	<u>Designated Funds</u> £	<u>Restricted Funds</u> £	<u>2020</u> £	<u>Totals</u> <u>2019</u> £
Bank Current Account	18,443	23,000	1,554	42,997	45,598
14 Day Notice Deposit Account	17,901	-	-	17,901	17,885
Upkeep & Maintenance Account	-	1,167	-	1,167	5,116
Cash in Hand	53	-	-	53	100
	<u>36,396</u>	<u>24,167</u>	<u>1,554</u>	<u>62,118</u>	<u>68,699</u>

Fixed Assets

Fund to which
asset belongs

Chairs & Book Boxes Upkeep & Maintenance

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PCC OF ST JOHN'S CHURCH, SHILDON

I report on the accounts for year ended 31 December 2020, which are set out on pages A2 to A6.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Independent Examiner

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- 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
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

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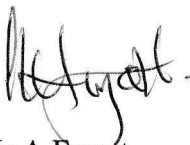
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(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Mr A Fryatt
14 Willow Road
Middlestone Moor
Spennymoor
DL16 7AR

2 March 2021