



The Parish of St James and St Basil  
Fenham

# Annual Meetings & Reports 2022



[www.jamesbasilfenham.org.uk](http://www.jamesbasilfenham.org.uk)

## **Welcome to the Annual Report for 2022**

**&**

## **Annual Parochial Church meetings 2023**

**The purpose of this document is to give details of all necessary reports and accounts and to provide an overview of the life of the parish in 2022. This booklet also includes the agendas and various papers for the annual meetings to be held on the 26<sup>th</sup> March 2023 as part of the main 10am service.**

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## **Introduction & Vicar's Report**

Despite a lifting of restrictions and a return of missed traditions and events, 2022 was in many ways, a year of turbulence.

I started the year with three months of continued illness following surgery for a ruptured appendix towards the end of 2021, this and the continued COVID restrictions saw a slow start to the year in many ways. The COVID restrictions were finally lifted in April.

The year was personally very challenging as after almost 17 years of marriage my wife and I separated in the early summer, and I readjusted to life as a part-time single parent of two. I am thankful to be in a parish that continue to journey with me without judgement and in friendship – as many of you might have known, life isn't easy when hiding away might be the very thing you want to do, yet this is often beyond possibility; sometimes you hold it together, sometimes you just about manage not to fall apart in despair.

The parish also lost a number of good friends, notably Margaret Johnson who had bravely fought a long battle with Cancer. Margaret had served the parish as a member of the Church Council, in her work for many years managing the Parish Hall and through her efforts to keep our social life active. Her final months saw her embark on personal adventures – ticking off some of her own 'bucket list' as she remained full of grace, dignity, and friendship, (especially if you had a moment to share a G&T). We also paused to mark with love the lives of Joyce Little, Eunice Davidson, Bob Clements and Eric Harrison. Each served the community through friendship, service, love and care.

A highlight of the summer saw the parish welcome a new curate, Ryan McKeon, following his ordination in early July. Ryan came to us after completing his studies at Trinity College in Bristol; his prior home was to be found in Worthing. Initially, he lived with his partner Huw in St Luke's Vicarage in Spittal Tongues and, at the year end we were looking forward to welcoming them into the Curate's House in Fenham in the early months of 2023, (they finally moved in to the house in early March).

As always, I note my thanks to all who share in this wider vision and effort to create a space of open doors and welcome. I particularly recognise the considerable efforts of Nicki and Margaret our Churchwardens; good and faithful critical friends with a perceived boundless energy, both of whom look forward to passing the baton on in 2023! Tim and Jeanette were reappointed for another year as Treasurer and PCC Secretary respectively. They have both continue to help manage the processes and administration of our parish with care and insight.

In 2022, the Parish continued to defend its actions against a former employee. By the year end, we were moving towards the end of a legal process lasting well over a year. At the time of writing (March 2023), we finally received judgement from the Courts that the Parish had not acted unfairly, and claims made against the parish were dismissed entirely. This has been an exhausting process that consumed significant amounts of time and resource, and one which we could not report openly at the time. We were supported by our Legal Team (initially at Sinton's of Newcastle, then latterly from Irwin Mitchell of Leeds and our Barrister Mr Ratledge of St John's Buildings Manchester), and we note that we are indebted to our Insurance Company in their support during this process too.

In the early summer we celebrated the Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II in the Church Gardens in a truly British way... we were all freezing: none-the-less, we managed to keep a brave face and eat cake! In the late Summer we joined with the nation to mourn the death of her late Majesty and in a poignant ceremony the Proclamation of the King in Fenham took place in Church – something only seen twice before in the life of the Church.

As always, these pages tell a little more of the events of the year and the business of the parish. I trust you will see within them our wider hope to be a 'Parish that welcomes all, without exception'.

This report is edited on St Patrick's Day, a day of revelry and increasing secular celebration. Patrick would have perhaps shunned any sense of celebrity, clear that he – and the church he served as Bishop – only stood because of the will of God and dedication of the faithful. Little has changed I suspect, and our shared life together stands in testimony to that.

James ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ 17<sup>th</sup> March 2023

*Patrick. Bishop, Missionary, Patron of Ireland c460*

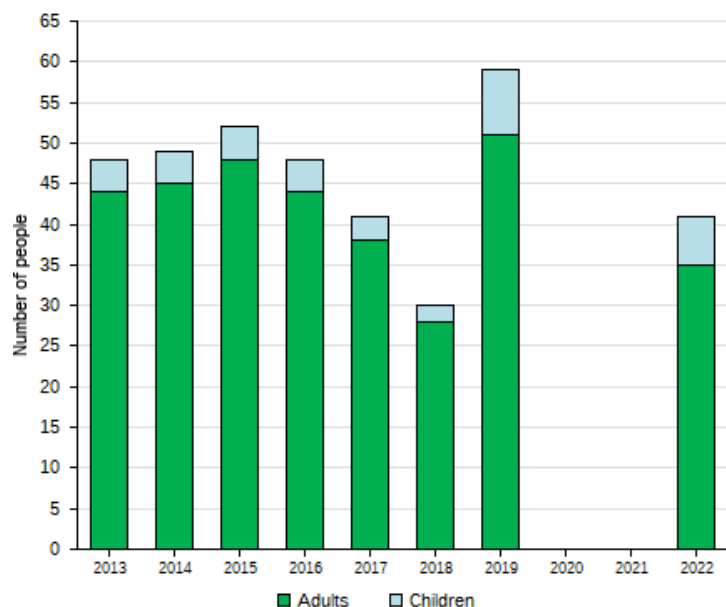
*'I hold quite certainly that what I am, I have accepted from God'*

*Att. Letter to the Soldiers of Coroticus, St Patricks Confesio.*

## **A snapshot of attendance and membership**

Parish Electoral Roll = 79 (2020 = 78)

i. Usual Sunday Attendance, (2013-2022)



The Usual Sunday Attendance would normally include those present at all of our services, the 10am, 5:30pm and the occasions when the African Congregation meet, Baptisms are held or seasonal services take place. Given the exceptional circumstances, the Church of England is omitting the figures returned for 2020 and 2021 from its data analysis.

Attendance during 2022 often remained hard to calculate. Our services were streamed online and held in person. These services do provide statistical analysis of participation, but as people joined late,

left early, technology let us down (!), or viewed services during the week it is difficult to give an average 'real' figure that is useful for comparison.

The average attendance of people in church each Sunday was 42 (including all services held. The 2021 average was 39).

### **Easter Day 2022**

2022 = Attendance in the Parish - 111

2021 = Attendance in the Parish - 114

2020 = Attendance in the Parish – service held online – no data available

2019 = Attendance in the Parish – 80

### **Christmas 2022** (including all Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services)

Attendance in the Parish 2022 – 297

Attendance in the Parish 2021 – 178\*

Attendance in the Parish 2020 – 174\*

Attendance across the Parish 2019 – 328.

\* numbers restricted at some services due to COVID 19 regulations.

**October Count** Nationally the Church of England uses the month of October as a sample month to calculate average attendance at all church services per week. This figure excludes 'non average' attendance, for example if Harvest Festival is held in October. In

2020 and 2021 COVID 19 restrictions were in place, these figures also do not include anyone joining or viewing online.

2018 = 44

2019 = 74

2020 = 44

2021 = 39

2022 = 42

**In 2022 1 wedding, 22 funerals and 5 baptisms were held in the Parish.**

*These figures include Funeral services held at the Crematorium, but not those held in other burial grounds or other churches.*

### **Administration, publicity and website.**

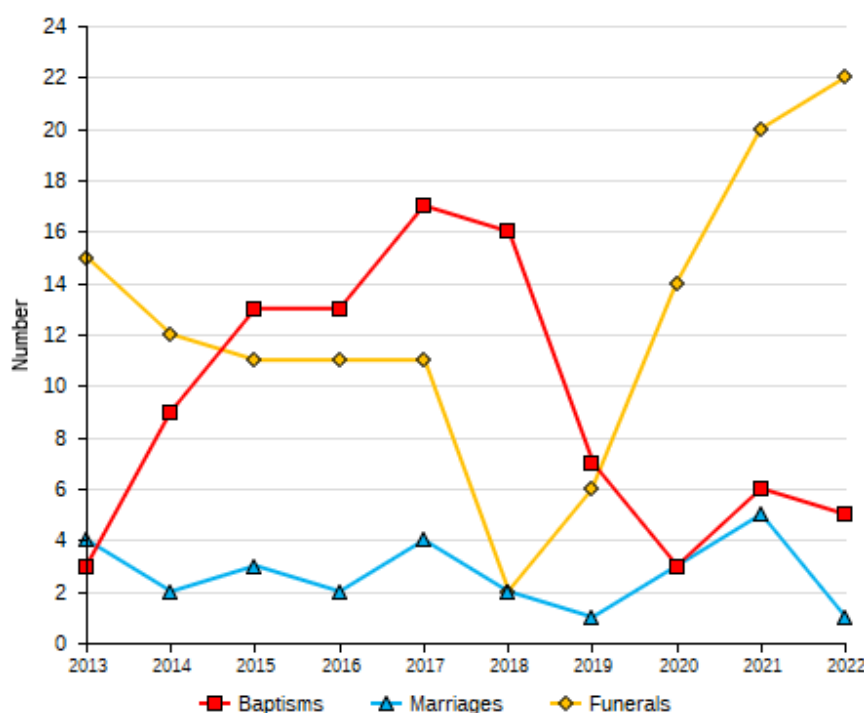
In 2022 parish administration was completed by the Vicar and Churchwardens, assisted by Jeanette Welsh (as PCC Secretary) and Niel Soulsby supporting our online presence.

Administration in the parish is a significant task and we remain thankful to those who help out with small jobs to share the load around a little.

Our online presence continues to grow as our virtual 'shop window' to both the local community and further afield. In 2022, our webpage was accessed 25,763 times by 8,606 unique users, this represents a fall over the 2021 figures but it remains higher than 2020.

Our Facebook community ended the year with almost 800 people 'following' us. Our Vimeo page (video streaming platform) continued to have good use with numbers following online (or watching again) being at least 40% of the 'in-person' congregation. These virtual tools continue to be an important way of connecting with local groups and networks to promote events and concerts and to include people in our shared worship and life together. Live streaming of services began during the early weeks of the first COVID pandemic of 2020, we will continue to monitor the use of live streaming as we consider if this is something that we will carry forward into future years.

i. Baptisms, marriages and funerals, (2013-2022)





### **Café** from Margaret Cutting

The cafe, now referred to as the Kiosk, has continued to go from strength to strength since moving back to Thursday mornings during last year. The Early Years music group has also restarted with Paige and we welcome several little ones each week. They have become our first group of regulars in the morning and are followed by members of an exercise group and those from an art group later in the day. Both these groups meet in the church hall on a weekly basis.

The PCC are now in a position to consider employing someone as a catering manager to expand and grow our service to the community. We will however still depend on volunteers for week to week service and are always looking for anyone who would like to join the team.

If you enjoy meeting people and eating home made delicious food then please come on Thursday mornings from 10.00am to 1.00pm in the church.

### **Children and Young People**

Whilst we regularly have children and young people present in church, these are often small numbers and in the absence of a regular group of people to prepare and lead anything specifically for this age group, the number attending is often very low.

The Godly Play resources were relocated to the area in front of the memorial chapel – so we have a ‘kit’ ready to use once we have leaders in place.

When specific services were planned with a more informal feel and ‘family focus’ (for example, Harvest & Christmas), the numbers of family groups attending were higher. In 2023, the Parish might consider a more regular return to a pattern of services that explicitly includes regular services that aimed at families attending together.

‘Jellyfish and Bees @ Js & Bs’ (our early years, weekly music session) restarted as soon as restrictions would permit in the early summer. As is recorded in the ‘Café/Kiosk’ report, we welcomed Paige to lead the group. Paige manages this group in a new gentle way and we have found a new cohort of local parents and carers join us on a Thursday morning.

### **Deanery Synod Report** from Margaret Green

Rachel Gill and I were appointed as the Newcastle West Deanery Synod Representatives at the APGM 2020, so this last year was the final year of the 3 year term. Voting will take place at this year’s APCM for our representatives. The number of representatives depends on the number of members on the Electoral Roll. Churches with 51-80 members are allowed 2 and as we have 76 members we again may have 2. The Synod has met 3 times in the last year. The first in May was at Holy Saviour Church Sugley and was Rev’d James McGowan’s first as Area Dean and it was also the first live

meeting since the pandemic. The Rev'd Neil Heslop gave a brief history of the church which was founded in 1837. The parish of Denton was formed from part of Sugley and Neil is priest in charge of both parishes. The October meeting was held at St Mary's Church Throckley and in February (2023) we met at St James Church Benwell.

Meetings usually start with updates on the host church by the incumbent. Finance is a regular item on the agenda as are updates on vacancies & appointments around the Deanery. Updates from the Diocese include the Next Steps in the project Bringing Hope, Growing Church. Funding for this from the national church has not yet been achieved. Also with regard to finance only 80 full time clergy can be sustained in the Diocese instead of the current 91. It was noted at the February meeting that there has been some growth. The Deanery Development Group (DDG) works to identify the needs of parishes and works out how to cover mission and deploy resources. Information gathered from a self review questionnaire from parishes should help with this.

Safeguarding is also a regular item with reminders to keep up to date at level 3 on the Dashboard. The main item in October was a presentation of the Diocesan Generous Giving Team which encourages all forms of generosity. Overall giving and the number of givers is falling. There are several ways of giving and the team can be contacted for advice but it was also noted that non-financial giving should not be overlooked. At the February meeting at St James church in Benwell it was recommended we watch a video entitled "Fighting the Cost of Living" which can be seen on BBC iPlayer for the next ten months. This is an excellent documentary about the cost of living crisis and features the community in Benwell and the Food Bank at St. James. It shows a community bringing support, food and hope to those most in need and it has been stated on the media that the generosity and love shown gives a real hope for humanity. It also features the Rev'd Chris Minchin who many of us will remember as a member here at St James and St Basil's in his student days when he constructed the Tower of Babel with the old chairs!

At some meetings we may divide into groups for a short discussion, as we did at St James. There is great diversity amongst the churches in the Deanery and discussions are held as to how we all may help each other in sharing our various talents and assets. We were informed the Archdeacon's 3 yearly visits are to start again. The new Deanery Synod will meet on 15 June 2023.



### **Electoral Roll** *From Margaret Green, Electoral Roll Officer.*

Every six years the Electoral Roll is renewed and this will take place in 2025. In the intervening years it is revised to bring it up to date and the revision this year has to be completed by 12 March, two weeks before the APGM on 26 March.

This year we welcome three new members, -Anne Henderson, Helen Lewis and Amy Marshall. As they have joined before 12 March they will be able to vote at the meeting. Anyone wishing to be on the Roll after 12 March may do so but they will not be able to vote at this APGM.

We remember with love those who have died this last year, - Eunice Davidson, Robert (Bob) Clements, Joyce Little and Margaret Johnson. With their loss and the three new members we now have 79 members on the Electoral Roll.

With the confidentiality and privacy regulations the Electoral Roll is no longer displayed in church but is kept in the church safe and member may see their own entry on request.

### **Engagement with Schools**

A shared role for the Vicar in partnership with Dame Allan's Schools continued in 2022. The role of the school Chaplain is rooted within a multi-disciplinary student support team alongside the school nurse, counselors, art therapist and psychotherapist (and from 2022, Heidi and Poppy, the two school Therapy Dogs – Heidi 'working' at the senior school and Poppy with the Juniors).

Dame Allan's Senior School Chamber Choir returned to lead half termly Evensong on the penultimate Friday of each term. The Choir is now almost entirely made up of students – this is a clear change from pre-pandemic years.

We welcomed school curriculum visits from Dame Allan's Junior School, Wingrove Primary School and we visited the senior school to support their Religious Studies Curriculum on occasions alongside leading Collective Worship in school at Dame Allan's and at Cheviot Primary School in Newbiggin Hall.

The Vicar continued to serve on the Governing Body of Thomas Walling Primary Academy in Blakelaw (part of the Laidlaw School's Trust) and as a Director of the Pele Academy Trusts (whose schools serve the outer west of the city and Ponteland and its surrounding villages).

## **Fabric**

No significant works were undertaken in 2022. Some minor repairs and maintenance were carried out.

## **Church**

Routine works were carried throughout the year including, servicing of the Clock, the heating system and the organ was tuned towards the end of the year by Woods of Huddersfield.

In the summertime we held a number of 'Tidy Up Tuesdays' followed by lunch at the pub for those who wanted to join us. This offered opportunity to catch up on housekeeping and small projects were completed including repolishing the floor, cleaning all the silverware, reorganizing and redecorating the rear lobby (by the vestry), oiling the exterior timber work, and a tidy up of the basement.

The PCC considered the redevelopment of the memorial area and have requested designs showing the removal of the stone altar base. The proposal would retain the oak 'top' and commission a new timber base for this. This would allow greater flexibility of the space and be the first step in creating a permanent 'sanctuary space' in a church which is increasingly busy during the week.

No further works from the Quinquennial Report were carried out.

Having begun to develop a good and creative relationship with our Architect, Mr Ian Lucas, the PCC were saddened to hear the news of his sudden death in May. Mr Lucas (of the SmithersPurslow Partnership) had not only carried out our last inspection, but had also led his team through the initial stages of the feasibility study for the Parish Hall Redevelopment project. Until the PCC can appoint a new consulting architect, all works were put on hold.

## **Fabric – Hall (including hall users)**

Routine servicing continued in 2022.

Following almost two years of quieter life in the hall with all the seasons of restrictions in place, 2022 saw a new busy routine develop. By the year end regular activities include an after school Children's Drama Group, Zumba classes, daytime exercise groups and yoga, an art group for children who are homeschooled, the local History Society, English and Maths Tuition, early morning weekend yoga and our resident scout group the 82<sup>nd</sup> Newcastle. In 2022, the hall also saw the establishment of second scout troop (a branch of the 49<sup>th</sup> Newcastle), this group simply rents the space from us on a Sunday morning and is specifically aimed at local children from Islamic families.

In addition, our two studio spaces (the Upper Room and the Basement) continue to be home to two local businesses. The basement is occupied by Derek Farrell and is home to his joinery workshop. Derek is much in demand locally, but offers his workshop to the community on a Saturday morning and is often around to offer a loan of tools or tips, advice and guidance. Derek has supported the parish through his offer of time and labour to help carry out some routine maintenance and work. The Upper Room remained the home of Petals & Power, a local floristry and art studio run by Vicky Foreshaw. Vicky also runs several workshops and groups throughout the week in her studio and offers some of her time to the parish through her talent and time.

In the early part of 2023, the PCC hope to appoint a new Architect and continue to the next stage of the consultation and planning for the hall redevelopment.

### **Finance**

The parish continues to manage to pay its way thanks to the efforts of many. Our Parish share offer is currently lower than the suggested amount, this reflects a year in which we continued to recover from COVID pandemic restrictions and increased expenses with the cost-of-living crisis. This isn't sustainable in the long term as whilst our offer is relatively low in the Diocesan Budget, all parishes are feeling the strain which will see the Diocese run at a significant deficit in 2023 (having done so already for a number of years).

Locally, we no incurred no major items of expense until the end of the year when a large amount was invested in number 32 Auburn Gardens in an attempt to catch up with long over due maintenance.

As we move into 2023, our major challenge will be utility costs. Our current supply contract negotiated a few years ago comes to an end in the spring of 2023. At this point will see significant increases in already very large heating bills having been protected from these in recent years.

### **Gardens**

2022 saw the Gardens remain a much loved space for the local community. Our paid gardener, Penny Hunter continued to work with volunteers to manage the gardens throughout the year.

The footpaths continue to present a significant area of risk and a number of accidents were recorded. To help manage the risk, we began to install outdoor lighting along the main walkway. By the end of the year three lights were in place which create pools of light along the long boarder whilst allowing some light to 'spill' across the footpath.

The lights are triggered by movement. This was felt to be a less intrusive option to flood lighting (which might cause problems for our neighbours and disturb wildlife). The Gardens saw the planting of a new Silver Birch Tree together with some small fruit trees in memory of members of the Rochester Family. The species of tree were chosen to hopefully increase the biodiversity of the gardens and encourage greater birdlife. Plans were also made to carry out maintenance on the large trees within the garden (this work will hopefully be carried out in the early months of 2023).

### **Godly Play**

We continue to hold a large stock of Godly Play resources and in 2022 these were used to support school visits, and also on some occasion during our church services. With nobody here to run regular sessions, these paused in the late spring of 2022.

### **Hospitality**

The parish mission continues to place a high priority on its mission to create space for all. The Church Kitchen continues to manage, though we recognise that it was not designed to do what it currently has to and some items of the fixtures and fittings are wearing out quicker than we might have anticipated. By the year end the dishwasher had been replaced by a refurbished commercial one, and the hot tap failed entirely (this was replaced at the very end of the year).

In 2022, the 'Fenham Local' markets did not run – this was largely due to organizational capacity. It seems that these were missed by the local community. We did manage to run a Christmas Market in the hall and hope to see the return of the summer markets in the garden in 2023.

### **Jazz @ Js & Bs** *from Tony Roberts*

After the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the subsequent refugee crisis, J's&B's stepped up to the mark by organising a jazz fund raiser afternoon. The musicians and vocalists generously gave their time free and we raised £1270 for the Disasters Emergency Committee. Later in the summer we continued with our garden concerts, between June and September, with some wonderful musicians including guitarist Joe Steels, singer Ruth Lambert and our great local trombonist David Gray. This year we are planning a programme of mostly vocal concerts beginning in May.

### **Liturgy & Worship**

2022 saw a continued and gradual return to pre covid practice – the 'shared cup' was re-introduced at Easter for those who wished to receive and we stopped restricting numbers to our larger services like Harvest and Easter.

Throughout the year we continued to produce separate service booklets for each Sunday (which usually had all the correct words and music in the right places!). This brought sense of convenience and ease to Sunday mornings, though it was time consuming and costly in terms of administrative resources.

Main Sunday services continued to be streamed online to our Vimeo page. Funerals and weddings were also streamed around the world to families on private pages if requested.

2022 saw a more mixed use of the High Altar and Nave Altar depending on the season. Our service pattern developed to include a first Sunday of the month with services accompanied by the Quartet (now known as the St James Consort) on the Piano. This gave a quieter more reflective start to each month and offered a fresh contrast to music on the organ.

**Music** *From Simon Davies Fidler*

### **Sunday Mornings**

This year we have welcomed organists Robin Beaumont and Paul Ritchie into a pattern of more regular playing on Sunday mornings. We have enjoyed introducing mass settings into the congregation's repertoire by Paul. Robin has introduced us to lots of new new music from his wealth of experience, which is always imaginative and fun.

**The St James' Consort** continues to lead the singing on the first Sunday of each month, and on special feast days, accompanied by Len Young on the piano.

This year the Consort has recorded 10 Christmas Carols by Len Young in the church. Films of those recordings are available on the church website and on YouTube.

**Jellyfish & Bees** has settled into a regular pattern on Thursday mornings before cafe, led by Paige.

In August the **Newcastle Phoenix Choir** will be two year's old! The choir continues to welcome new members and has become a fixture in the week for many singers. The Friday afternoon sessions are always uplifting and fun. For anyone wondering what the Phoenix Choir is all about, these words (that I've borrowed from the Citizens of World Choir) encapsulates it nicely: We are a music organisation that advocates for understanding, dignity and kindness through the transformative impact of music and song.

Our time in the cafe after singing allows space for socialising and provides time for individuals to sing to the rest of the group. This year we've enjoyed performing at

Brunswick Methodist Church, Laing Art Gallery and alongside the Morning Chorus in a concert at J's & B's.

**J's & B's Singers** has continued to bounce back after the Pandemic. At the time of writing the choir has over 70 members regularly attending rehearsals on Monday nights. At Easter we look forward to a performance of Dvorak Mass in D and Vaughan Williams' Five Mystical Songs. This follows concerts in December (Messiah and Christmas Music) and July (Faure Requiem, Len Young Requiem), in which we collaborated with the Hexham Orpheus Choir.

**Fenham Ensemble** continues to rehearse in the church on Wednesday evenings. The choir supported another beautiful Nine Lessons and Carols service in December, with Robin at the organ. The choir also gave a concert featuring Vaughan Williams' Mass in G Minor, a collaboration with Sine Nomine in June and a concert at Blanchland Abbey in the spring. In June this year the choir looks forward to its first concert outside of the region - a concert in Glasgow with the Madrigals!

In September another choir - **The Morning Chorus** - was launched on Wednesday mornings, for singers who prefer to sing during daylight hours. It has become a popular ensemble, with around 90 singers coming to sing every week. The choir gave its first performance at the church in December and will give another concert in April.

Concerts at the church are becoming more frequent as musicians are finally out-and-about again. This spring / summer 2023 we look forward to performances by our in-house choirs, also by Iona Brown with David Murray and again with Mike Gerrard. We will be visited by Sonoro again with Voices of Hope in May and Len Young & Friends in June. Later in the year we welcome a return visit from the Brundibar Festival team and a first visit from Northern Praeclastica.

**Equipment and Resources** In 2022 some new items included,  
A refurbished, replacement dishwasher in the church kitchen.

### **Property (Vicarage & Auburn Gardens)**

#### **The Vicarage**

*As the official 'Benefice Property', maintenance of the Vicarage remains the responsibility of the Diocese, day to day running costs are met by the Vicarage Household.*

As reported for a fourth consecutive year, electrical problems persist in the house, with fuses tripping and supply failures regularly occurring. (It was also noted during the year that the doorbell and a small number of sockets were still 'live' even when all the circuit breakers were switched off. These are likely to be very old circuits and



perhaps an indication that the whole house will require rewiring at some point in the near future).

The repairs to the boundary gates and guttering were not carried out by the Diocese in 2022 – however, a commitment to replace the front gate in the Spring of 2023 has been made. The guttering issue is now causing a buildup of moss on the exterior of some of the walls.

The Vicarage is a large, listed (Grade 2) building that proves to be very difficult and expensive to heat. Whilst it does have insulation in the roof and most of the exterior walls are insulated, the issue is the 34 single glazed sash windows. In 2022, in an attempt to offer better control over the heating, smart controls were fitted, and four radiators were replaced with larger ones in the hall ways. After four years of negotiation, in September the Diocese committed to installing secondary glazing in three rooms. Disappointingly, by the end of the year the order for these had still not been placed.

In December, the Vicarage Household replaced the carpets on the staircase and first floor hallway.

*The house is larger than most in the diocese and fails to meet the recommended standards for clergy housing as it does not offer accessible entrance routes, nor a separately accessed office space.*

### **32 Auburn Gardens**

The house is owned by the PCC on Auburn Gardens and under the terms of a trust deed, retains its designation as housing for an Assistant Curate if one is appointed to the Parish. The House was let to tenants for most of the year. After the appointment of a Curate (Ryan McKeon) in the summertime, notice was served on the tenant, and we finally retook vacant possession at the end of October. A temporary arrangement was made with the Diocese to allow Ryan to occupy St Luke's Vicarage in Spittal Tongues until he could occupy number 32.

It was felt that Ryan should not move into the house until some of the issues with the property had been addressed. A plan was agreed to re-configure the first floor. This saw the relocation of walls and the creation of a larger 'family bathroom' in place of the current arrangement of a very small separate WC and small and unpleasant bathroom. These works also saw the correction of damp problems caused by leaking pipes and rot in the floor joists. Contractors began work in November and the works were largely completed by the end of the year ready for occupation by early 2023. The

Diocese provided an interest free loan for the works (totaling a little under £15,000). This will be repaid through deductions from the rent paid by the Diocese to the Parish for Ryan's tenure.

The house will need further works to the Kitchen and the – hopefully – minor repairs to the roof in the coming years.

### **Safeguarding and Health and Safety**

Ensuring our buildings and communities are as safe as they can be is of upmost importance

#### *Health and Safety*

In line with our insurance requirements and with national Church policy, all parish activities now require a written risk assessment to be carried out. Several minor incidents were noted from trips and falls though none caused significant injury or harm.

#### *Safeguarding - from Margaret Green, Parish Safeguarding Officer*

The safeguarding of children, young people, vulnerable adults and those who find themselves in difficult relationships is of paramount importance.

Routine practices remain the same. The Safeguarding Policy, agreed upon by the PCC, is reviewed yearly and is on display on the church notice board in the vestibule of the West Door of the church along with the booklet 'Promoting a Safer Church'. There are photographs of the Safeguarding Team which consists of Rev'd James McGowan, Jeanette Welch and myself as Safeguarding Officer. There is also more information on the church website, [jamesbasilfenham.org.uk](http://jamesbasilfenham.org.uk), and included are useful telephone numbers and my contact details. The latter are also on the Sunday pew sheet. Any safeguarding concerns are taken seriously and reported to Carol Butler, the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser, (DSA)

Anyone who has contact with children, young people and vulnerable adults and all members of the PCC, as Trustees of the Church, are DBS (Declaration and Barring Service) checked. Recruitment to any of these positions is taken seriously. DBS checks are carried out every 5 years and an updating training course undertaken every 3 years.

Carol Butler and her team are constantly in touch with any new information or warnings of suspicious behaviour anywhere in the Diocese & I report these to the PCC at the monthly meetings or sooner if necessary.

All churches now, in 2,000 churches in 24 Diocese, throughout the Church of England, have a Safeguarding Dashboard chart which shows at a glance, by a series of colours, it's Safeguarding Status,- whether it is up to date, any action that needs to be taken or if that action is urgent. It reminds of tasks that need renewing and shows the Diocese where help may be needed. All the churches in the Diocese are now at Level 3. Each church now has to be watchful and maintain that same level.

### **Scouts – 82<sup>nd</sup> Newcastle From Carol Preston, Group Scout Leader**

Another busy year for the Scout group, our numbers continue to be healthy and there is always a waiting list for young people to join Beavers and start their Scouting journey with us. We are fully back in the swing of things post Covid with young people taking part in a wide range of activities and achieving a lot of badges and having a great time. We had our first Group Camp for three years last July, it was so lovely having young people spending the weekend together, enjoying the activities, Scouts cooking for themselves and of course coming together for Camp fire. In October we were able to take a small number of Scouts away to Dilston near Corbridge to complete their Expedition Challenge which resulted in three of the Scouts earning their Chief Scout Gold Award, well done to them.

It was a pleasure to be able to plant a tree in the church garden as part of the Queen's Green Canopy as part of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations especially following the sad time of the passing of Her Majesty. The First night following her passing we invested one of our Scouts, the first in our group to be invested with the promise changed to "Duty to God and the King", a special moment for him.

In February we were able to hold our first social event for the group, the wine tasting event was a huge and enjoyable success, it was so lovely to have members of the community joining in with us and it raised £300 for the group.

The commitment of the leaders and young leaders to support the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts is second to none. Our newest leaders in Scouts are working hard to offer a fantastic programme to the Scouts but we still need some additional support, so as always the plea is if you know of anyone that may be interested let me know. It is a wonderful experience being involved in the group, I came as a parent who sat on the side-lines 30 years ago and have loved every minute of my Scouting experience, have had the privilege of seeing the incredible young people take part in, enjoy and develop through Scouting.

As always, we are incredibly grateful for the continued support of the church with our group, we love being part of the community, thank you. Carol

### **Study Groups/personal reflection & prayer**

The traditional pattern of lent study groups continued to be disrupted by COVID restrictions, though a small group did meet in Advent.

The Sunday service pattern continued in its routine with the 10am (Holy Communion), 2pm (Holy Communion) and 5:30pm Evening Prayer services being held most weeks.

The Church continued to be opened most days and received a regular number of visitors throughout the week who use the space for quiet reflection.

### **Annual Meeting of Parishioners**

*In accordance with the Churchwardens Measure 2001 a meeting of the parishioners of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Fenham: St James and St Basil, will be held for the purpose of appointing 2 churchwardens of the parish.*

*The following persons are entitled to attend the meeting and vote:*

- (a) persons whose names are entered on the church electoral roll of the parish; and*
- (b) persons resident in the parish whose names are entered on a register of local government electors by reason of such residence.*

*To be appointed churchwarden a person must be baptized and;*

- (a) entered on the church electoral roll of the parish;*
- (c) an actual communicant;*
- (d) 21 years of age or upwards;*
- (e) not disqualified as outlined in section 2 of the Churchwardens Measure (2001).*

### **Agenda**

**1) Minutes of the last meeting Appendix 1**

**2) Election of Churchwardens**

## Annual Parochial Church Meeting Church Representation Rules 2021

### Agenda

- 1) Apologies
- 2) Minutes of the last meeting *Appendix 2*
- 3) Matters arising
- 4) Election of
  - a. Diocesan Synod representatives (2 needed)
  - b. Members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC)
  - c. Sidespeople / Welcomers *under the new rules, these positions are to be filled at the first meeting of the PCC in accordance with section 2(2)(f) of the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956.*
- 5) Appointment of Auditor
- 6) Report on the proceedings of the Church Council  
*this document to be taken as such a report*
- 7) Treasurer's Report *Accounts attached in appendix 3*
  - a. Examination of audited accounts
  - b. Statement of funds & property *no verbal report given. Church Log books and accounts will be available and opportunity for question given.*
- 8) Fabric Report *A brief summary will be given. Further details to specific buildings will be given in this document. Opportunity for question or comment will be given.*
- 9) Chairman's Report *to be presented as a review of the year during the service*
- 10) Any Other Business – *To be notified at the start of the meeting*

## Appendix 1. Annual General Meeting of Parishioners 2022 (Vestry meeting)

### Minutes

#### Election of Churchwardens

The parish of Fenham, St James and St Basil has two (2) Churchwardens.

- 1) the minutes of the 2020 meeting were received and approved.
  - 2) Two nominations were received for Mrs Nicolette Walter and Mrs Margaret Cutting.
- All were duly elected by unanimous agreement.

## Appendix 2

### *Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2022 Minutes*

**The Parish of St James & St Basil, Fenham  
The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (AGM)  
Sunday 10th April 2022  
At 11:15am in Church  
Minutes of Meeting**

#### **1. Present & Apologies for Absence APCM 2022**

**PRESENT:** Revd James McGowan (Chair), Nicki Walter, Margaret Cutting, David Welch, Nigel Welch, Jeanette Welch, Tony Roberts, Marjorie Rochester, Niel Soulsby, Gillian Cunningham, Caroline McGowan, Margaret Johnson, Joo Li Ng, Simon Davies-Fidler, Margaret Reid, Osaro Omobude, Rachel Gill, Tim Bradbury, Jo Maunder.

**Via Zoom:** Bonnie Brinn, Lesley Crawford, Margaret Green, Gillian Howe

**APOLOGIES:** Rosemary Nicolson, Nicholas Martin, Jo Haxworth, Joanne Ayre

#### **Attendance 2022**

There were 23 members of the Electoral Roll present including Revd James McGowan.

#### **2. Minutes of Last Vestry Meeting at APCM 2021**

There were no amendments and were agreed as true & correct:

Proposed by: Marjorie Rochester

Seconded by: Gillian Cunningham

**All Agreed & were signed by Revd J. McGowan.**



### **Vestry Meeting - Election of Churchwardens**

There were two nominations received for Mrs Nicolette Walter and Mrs Margaret Cutting. There being no other nominations these two appointments were:

**Agreed by all. Therefore both were duly elected.**

### **3. Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

Revd James McGowan advised the APCM was being held under the Church Representation Rules of 2021

#### **Minutes of the previous APCM on 25th April 2021**

There being no amendments, these were agreed as true and correct.

Proposed: Margaret Reid

Seconded: Margaret Johnson

**ALL AGREED & were signed by Revd J. McGowan.**

The Agenda, previous minutes from APCM on 25th April 2021, reports and the Financial Statement of Accounts for 2021 from Tim Bradbury (Treasurer) which were printed in the form of a Booklet and distributed to all on the Electoral Roll in advance of the 2022 APCM, are available and will be stored in the Church including these minutes.

Completed & signed Election Forms are also stored in the Church.

### **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the APCM held on 25th April 2021.

Revd J McGowan commented that it wasn't anticipated on how harder financially it would be for the Church due to Covid & that it has been a difficult Year but we have done satisfactorily & gave thanks to those who have contributed.

### **4. Election of:**

#### **a. Deanery Synod Representatives (2 required)**

As 2 representatives had been elected at the APCM in 2020 and they stand for a 3year term, the next Election for Deanery Synod Representatives will take place at the APCM in 2023.

#### **b. Election of Members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC)**

Margaret Johnson & Nigel Welch were due to step down following a 3year term on the PCC. There was also one vacant place. Consequently there were 3 representatives to be elected. See information below:

1. Tony Roberts

Margaret Johnson & Nigel Welch both had indicated they would be willing to stand again for another 3year term.

2. Margaret Johnson
3. Nigel Welch

There being no other nominations the three appointments to the PCC was:  
**Agreed by all**

**c. Sidespersons/Welcomers**

Under the new rules, these positions are to be filled at the first meeting of the PCC in accordance with the Church Representation Rules 2021 M6(6).

**5. Appointment of Examiner of Accounts**

Jane Makepeace Examined 2021 accounts & has agreed to stand again as Examiner of Accounts for 2022, which was:

Proposed by:	Rachel Gill
Seconded by:	Joo Li Ng

**Agreed by all**

**6. Report on the proceedings of the Church Council**

These were received in the form of a booklet which had been printed and distributed to members of the Electoral Roll in advance of the APCM and this document to be taken as such a report (attached).

**7. Treasurer's Finance Report & Accounts - (Jan-Dec 2021)**

These are reported in the booklet (attached) which were discussed and accepted by the PCC at a previous PCC Meeting which were then Independently Examined by Jane Makepeace and the completed & signed report of the accounts is also included in the booklet (attached).

All were invited to ask any questions. There were no questions asked.

Marjorie Rochester gave thanks to Vicar, Churchwardens, Treasurer & PCC

For keeping our Church life going & the Church had remained open most days in unprecedented times during the lockdown situation due to Covid-19.

**8. Fabric Report**

This was reported in the booklet (attached). JMcG also gave a brief summary during the meeting that although some works were needed to be carried out on

the buildings these were nothing major or urgent & outlined that these would be carried out during the course of this year.

All were invited to ask any questions. There were no questions asked.

## **9. Chairman's Report**

This is in the form of the Introduction & Vicars Report which is also included in the booklet (attached).

All were Invited to ask any questions. There were no questions asked.

There followed a vote to accept **Items: 7, 8, 9:**

Proposed by: Joo Li Ng

Seconded by: Niel Soulsby

**ALL AGREED**

## **10. Any Other Business**

Revd Osaro Omobude gave thanks to Revd James McGowan and the Congregation of St James & St Basils Church for their welcome to him & his family when they arrived 7years ago and for the opportunity given for fellowship not just church fellowship but also church as a place of sanctuary & thanked for the opportunity to lead the African Church Group monthly. Niel Soulsby followed with a suggestion of having events during the course of the year by having joint services/events with the African Church congregation

Revd James McGowan responded by advising that next week on Easter Sunday 17th April Revd Osaro Omobude will be assisting at the 10am Service & the African Congregation are welcome to attend also & would like this to be recognised as a formal partnership by the Diocese.

**Revd James McGowan closed the meeting & announced the next PCC Meeting as below:**

Next PCC Meeting: Tuesday 26th May at 7pm in Church Hall

**Jeanette Welch Secretary to PCC**

## **Appendix 3 Financial statements**

These include a statement of Assets and Liabilities at the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022, together with the financial statements for 2022. *NB at the time of printing, these statements, whilst approved by the PCC, were awaiting Inspection. If this has not been completed by the date of the APCM, it will be proposed that these statements are 'received' and then are later 'approved' at an Extra-ordinary Meeting called for this purpose sometime before*

the 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023 whose date and time will be published in accordance with rule M13 of the Church Representation Rules 2020.

### **Employee Pensions Liability**

#### **Church Workers Pension Fund (CWPF) December 2022 Year End**

The Parish of St James and St Basil Fenham participates in the Pension Builder Scheme section of CWPF for lay staff. CWPF is administered by the Church of England Pensions Board, which holds the CWPF assets separately from those of the Employer and other participating employers. The Parish participates in the *Pension Builder 2014 Scheme*. *Pension Builder 2014* is a cash balance scheme that provides a lump sum which members use to provide benefits at retirement. Pension contributions are recorded in an account for each member. Discretionary bonuses may be added before retirement, depending on investment returns and other factors. The account, plus any bonuses declared is payable, unreduced, from age 65.

There is no sub-division of assets between employers in each section of the Pension Builder Scheme.

The scheme is considered to be a multi-employer scheme as described in Section 28 of FRS 102. This is because it is not possible to attribute the Pension Builder Scheme's assets and liabilities to specific employers and means that contributions are accounted for as if the Scheme were a defined contribution scheme.

A valuation of the Pension Builder Scheme is carried out once every three years. The most recent valuation was carried out as at 31 December 2019. The next valuation is due as at 31 December 2022.

For the Pension Builder 2014 section, the valuation revealed a surplus of £5.5m on the ongoing assumptions used. There is no requirement for deficit payments at the current time. The legal structure of the scheme is such that if another employer fails, The Parish of St James and St Basil Fenham could become responsible for paying a share of the failed employer's pension liabilities.

### **Assets**

Property owned by the Parochial Church Council is detailed in the Inventory and Terrier (Church Logbook).

#### **32 Auburn Gardens**

This property is held in trust by the PCC for the purpose of providing accommodation for an Assistant Curate if one is appointed. The property generates rental income for the parish which is detailed in the financial statement. The property (or any assets arising from a sale of the property) may not be used for any purpose other than housing for an Assistant Curate without the express consent of the Charity Commission, the Church Commissioners, the Incumbent, and the Bishop of Newcastle.

Paxton

Multiple Fund Receipts and Payment Report - December 2022

Page 1 of 3

Printed: 10/01/2023

St James' and St Basil's PCC Fenham

December 2022 year to date turnover											2021
	<u>General</u>	<u>SJKT</u>	<u>Auburn</u>	<u>Hall</u>	<u>Music</u>	<u>Cafe</u>	<u>Phoenix Choir</u>	<u>Bell</u>	<u>Path</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Voluntary Receipts											
Donations received	2,672.14	1,213.28	0.00	500.00	12,071.81	0.00	5,948.26	0.00	0.00	22,405.49	17,452.15
Collections	829.98	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	230.00	0.00	0.00	1,059.98	946.54
Planned Giving	16,899.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	16,899.00	16,735.00
Gift aid tax received	9,242.61	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9,242.61	5,506.77
Grants received	2,457.32	10,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	13,457.32	17,254.86
	<u>32,101.05</u>	<u>11,213.28</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>500.00</u>	<u>12,071.81</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>7,178.26</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>63,064.40</u>	<u>57,895.32</u>
Receipts from Fundraising Activities											
Fundraising income	1,622.50	0.00	0.00	454.30	0.00	0.00	115.00	0.00	0.00	2,191.80	
	<u>1,622.50</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>454.30</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>115.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>2,191.80</u>	
Receipts from Charitable Activities											
Fees	6,024.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,024.00	7,651.00
Rent	270.00	0.00	6,936.40	15,164.50	701.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	23,071.90	18,886.38
Charitable Activity Receipts	20.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.00	325.50
Cafe	1,188.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.20	10,847.74	0.00	0.00	0.00	12,040.95	11,139.08
Choir subs	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,510.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,510.00	4,934.00

Concert income	208.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,298.59	0.00	30.70	0.00	0.00	7,537.29	5,483.55
	<u>7,710.01</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>6,936.40</u>	<u>15,164.50</u>	<u>9,514.79</u>	<u>10,847.74</u>	<u>30.70</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>50,204.14</u>	<u>48,419.51</u>
Receipts from Investments											
Interest received	2.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.23	1.38
	<u>2.12</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.11</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>2.23</u>	<u>1.38</u>
Other Receipts											
Miscellaneous receipts	555.64	0.00	0.00	0.00	208.14	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	763.78	1,601.32
	<u>555.64</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>208.14</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>763.78</u>	<u>1,601.32</u>
Fundraising Costs											
Social Events	141.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	141.13	110.00
Charitable Donations	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,270.00	0.00	0.00	1,270.00	
	<u>(141.13)</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>(1,270.00)</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>(1,411.13)</u>	<u>(110.00)</u>
Charitable Activities Costs											
Heat, Light and Power	8,013.24	0.00	0.00	4,107.89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12,121.13	10,752.65
Maintenance	2,481.13	596.40	2,964.99	0.00	0.00	14.99	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,057.51	5,715.13
Hall Maintenance	25.97	0.00	0.00	362.48	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	388.45	
Grounds Maintenance	415.37	6,701.17	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,116.54	7,083.33
Insurance	0.00	8,808.95	228.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9,037.03	6,252.13
Development	1,566.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,566.00	2,070.00
Worship	2,960.71	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,050.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,010.71	8,120.33



Diocesan fees	4,352.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,352.00	3,563.00
Parish Share	35,040.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	35,040.00	20,000.00
Consultancy											3,733.00
Consultancy expenses											3,210.00
Clergy Expenses	3,296.28	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,296.28	3,538.96
Council Tax	3,339.11	0.00	771.22	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,110.33	2,071.44
Water rates	1,036.80	0.00	51.26	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,088.06	658.50
Volunteer expenses	570.79	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	570.79	1,466.25
Cafe expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,776.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,776.90	700.76
Office costs	2,319.08	0.00	0.00	391.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,710.08	2,822.75
Printing & stationery	390.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	390.25	178.69
Publicity costs	237.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	237.00	522.00
Music expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	18,525.83	0.00	9,377.73	0.00	0.00	27,903.56	15,348.09
	(66,043.73)	(16,106.52)	(4,015.55)	(4,861.37)	(19,575.83)	(1,791.89)	(9,377.73)	0.00	0.00	(121,772.62)	(97,807.01)
Governance Costs											
Sum up charges	704.72	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	704.72	457.98
Bank charges	345.89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	345.89	264.73
	(1,050.61)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	(1,050.61)	(722.71)
Other Costs											
Miscellaneous costs	590.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	118.56	394.80	0.00	0.00	1,103.36	4,070.00
	(590.00)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	(118.56)	(394.80)	0.00	0.00	(1,103.36)	(4,070.00)
Transfers											

Transfers between funds	(27,464.25)	(15,000.00)	6,000.00	20,000.00	1,170.00	20,000.00	(4,705.75)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	27,464.25	15,000.00	(6,000.00)	(20,000.00)	(1,170.00)	(20,000.00)	4,705.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Net receipts/payments	1,630.10	10,106.76	(3,079.15)	(8,742.57)	1,049.02	(11,062.71)	987.18	0.00	0.00	(9,111.37)	5,207.81
Cash funds at start of year	-21,490.96	-10,727.20	9,533.06	16,808.25	4,484.72	19,002.89	4,149.58	3,574.57	3,000.00	28,334.91	23,127.10
Cash funds at end of year	-19,860.86	-620.44	6,453.91	8,065.68	5,533.74	7,940.18	5,136.76	3,574.57	3,000.00	19,223.54	28,334.91

	<u>Value</u>
Cash Funds	
Bank current account	7277
Bank savings account	8096
CBF 1	880
CBF2	2970
	-----
	19223
	-----
Net assets/liabilities	19223