

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF
STOCKTON PARISH CHURCH**

ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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CONTENTS

	Page
Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council	3
Independent Examiners Report	8
Statement of Financial Activities	9
Balance Sheet	10
Notes to the Financial Statement	12

The Parochial Church Council presents its report, together with the financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2023

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Church Office: Stockton Parish Church
High Street
Stockton on Tees
TS18 1SP

During the year the following served as members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC):

Incumbent:	Revd Mark Miller	(Chairman)
Curate:	Revd Julia Bell	(Until 30 th September 2023)
	Revd Grace Aciro	(From 3 rd July 2023)
Church Wardens:	Peter Akers	
	Rohan Hayle	
Elected Members:	Steve Whitehouse	
	Atainu Ernest Mbikan	
	Alison Massey	
	Kirsty McCathie	
	Mathew Bains	
	Sinenhlanhla Ndlovu	
	Richard Donaldson	(From 22 nd May 2023)

STRUCTURE GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Stockton Parish Church is a parish within the Church of England as defined by canon law. Individual parishes within the Church of England do not have a separate constitution. They work within the framework of Church of England ecclesiastical law, consisting of the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure (1956) and the Church Representation Rules.

Parish Name: Stockton Parish Church
Church Address: Stockton Parish Church, High Street, Stockton on Tees, TS18 1SP

Membership of the PCC is either ex-officio or elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. In addition, the PCC has the power to co-opt members.

The Church is led by the incumbent with the assistance of the senior leadership team and is governed by the PCC that meets bi-monthly.

Standing Committee

This is the only committee that is required by law and is made up of the incumbent, Church Wardens and Treasurer. It has power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council. It has not met during the year.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Stockton Parish Church Council (PCC) is responsible, along with the Vicar (Revd. Mark Miller), for good governance of the Church.

In January 2023 Stockton Parish Church launched a new mission and vision statement:

Our mission is for everyone to know who they are, whose they are, and the difference they are called to make in the world.

Our vision is to grow to a church of 500 disciples, and plant 3 new churches in the next 5 years.

The Leadership Team and PCC believe that this vision will have a positive missional impact on the town that we serve. Over the year this new mission and vision has informed our prayers, preaching, activities, and financial decisions.

Each year, approximately 10% of our 'Voluntary Giving' income is donated as 'Mission Giving'. Recipients are identified by the Mission Giving Team and approved by the PCC. The Mission Giving Team also considers requests for donations coming from other potential recipients.

When considering the objectives of the charity, the trustees have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. This report will highlight some of the public benefits of Stockton Parish Church.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT

General Review of the Year

Our main Sunday worship service throughout the year has been our regular 10:30am service which has an open invitation to all. This has been well attended with an average attendance of 96 adults and 25 under 18's by the end of 2023. We have approximately 192 in our worshipping community. We have been able to provide a live stream of this service throughout the year with approximately 70 people engaging online each week.

In February we launched a second Sunday service at 4pm providing a more relaxed and informal style of worship and teaching. However, in the 3 months which this service ran it was not well attended and the decision to stop this service was made in May. This is allowing the PCC and Leadership Team to reassess the needs of the community and the best use of resources available for Sunday services.

Our special services throughout the year were particularly well attended and provided a place for the town to celebrate key points in the church calendar. In particular, services held over the

Christmas period where of great benefit to many. Our Candlelit Memorial service, attend by just over 100 people, provided space to pause and remember loved ones lost. Our Christmas Eve Carols by Candlelight Service was once again a highlight to the town, attended by approximately 550 people, as we celebrated the birth of Jesus.

Courses

Our primary aim is to introduce individuals to Jesus and provide them with a supportive environment to nurture their relationship with Him. In 2023, the church conducted two Alpha courses, offering approximately 25 individuals the opportunity to explore the Christian faith. Additionally, at the beginning of the year, we offered a Bereavement Journey course, providing support to 12 individuals navigating through loss and grief. These courses welcomed participants of all faith backgrounds or none.

Under 18's Ministry

In June, we enhanced our ministry for under 18's, introducing a more tailored approach for this age group. This involved restructuring our Sunday morning provision, segmenting it into three distinct age categories: 3-8 years olds, 9-12 year olds, and 13-18 year olds. This deliberate partition ensures more precise, age-specific teaching and discipleship. There was a positive response to this decision as our Under 18's ministry saw a surge in voluntary team members. Following a strict safer recruitment process, the PCC welcomed 7 new team members dedicated to serving the under 18's. This strategic change has strengthened this ministry and expanded the capacity to provide enhanced discipleship and teaching to a greater number of children and young people.

This year, we have sustained our Youth Socials provision, hosting events most Sunday evenings throughout the year. This initiative not only provides young people in our community with a dedicated space to meet peers and socialise but also offers opportunities for enriching experiences such as cinema trips and bowling. In addition to this, we are grateful for the support received from the Tees Valley Community Foundation, which granted us £5000. This funding played a crucial role in enabling a group of young people to attend the summer festival New Wine United. Without this funding, many of these young people would have missed out on this transformative experience, highlighting the profound impact that such opportunities can have on their personal and spiritual development. After attending New Wine United 4 young people made a decision to be baptised.

Engaging with local schools

The PCC is committed to engaging with children and young people within the community. This commitment is evident through the active involvement of supporting local schools in assemblies and chaplaincy initiatives, creating meaningful opportunities for spiritual growth and exploration. It is of note that Ian Ramsey now fund our Youth Missional Pastor one day a week to provide chaplaincy services. A significant achievement in school outreach occurred during the Christmas season, where more than 1000 school children attended church-hosted carol services. This provided an inclusive space for children of diverse backgrounds to explore the significance of Christmas and an opportunity to reflect on their individual beliefs and faith.

Accessibility

Navigating our grade 1 listed building provides significant challenges when it comes to accessibility. Despite these obstacles, the PCC has taken a meaningful step in accessibility with the support of a £8000 donation from The Teesside Family Foundation. This generous contribution, alongside PCC's decision to allocate a further £6800 from general funds, enabled the installation

of a new accessible stage complete with ramp for wheelchair access. This improvement is beneficial all year round but was received particularly positively at the popular Mayor's Carol Service this Christmas where all students, including those using wheelchairs, could confidently perform on stage.

Summer Cinema and Warm Spaces

2023 has been another year where the impact of the cost-of-living crisis has been evident in our community. To support people through this time we have opened the church as a warm and welcoming space. Throughout the 6 weeks summer school holidays we ran a Summer Cinema event where families could attend a viewing of a film and free lunch in the church. This was well attended with approximately 15 families accessing this service. Throughout the year we have continued to run our Wednesday afternoon lunch group, Agape. Through this we provided a warm soup lunch and refreshments, as well as a space for the community to gather and connect. This has been a vital space for many people especially in the winter months with around 20 attending each week. Throughout December we extended our warm space provision with our Christmas Cinema showing classic Christmas films in the afternoon targeted at those who may be experiencing social isolation, and family films in the early evening providing children and families with a warm and free activity through the festive period.

Community Grocery

The PCC and leadership team had envisioned the establishment of a Community Grocery at SPC in 2023, aiming to provide affordable groceries to individuals facing financial challenges. The plan included offering various wellbeing and life skill courses to support individuals and families in navigating their current circumstances. However, we were unable to secure funding for this comprehensive project and therefore the PCC and Leadership Team are developing plans to introduce a scaled-back version of the project, prioritising the implementation of wellbeing and life skills courses initially. Despite the limitations, this approach will facilitate the start of impactful activities while creating room for reassessment and potential future development.

Pastoral Care

Throughout 2023 the leadership team has had a specific focus on developing pastoral care within the church predominately in the form of the development and growth of *Small Groups*. Throughout the year 7 new small groups were established taking the total number of small groups to 9. These groups give space for people to develop community and friendships, exploring faith together and providing support for spiritual and emotional wellbeing.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is a standard agenda item at each PCC and Leadership Team meeting. The church places a high value on safeguarding and is dedicated to building a culture of safe practices. Throughout the year we have recruited 7 new team members to the Under 18's team using following the Church of England's practice of Safer Recruitment. We continue to ensure that safeguarding training is up to date for all staff and volunteers working with children, young people and vulnerable adults. This year, Steve Whitehouse the Parish Safeguarding Officer stepped down from this role after several years of serving in this post. Sinenhlanhla Ndlovu has taken on the role of Parish Safeguarding Officer and will have responsibility of overseeing good safeguarding practices within the church. As of the end of 2023 the church is not involved in any ongoing safeguarding cases and has no serious incidents of safeguarding to report.

Church Plant - The Way

In late 2022 the PCC commissioned John and Dawn Cottey to lead a new church plant called 'The Way'. This was commissioned as a church with a vision to establish a network of house churches across the area planted from The Way. The Way began to meet in October 2022 with 12 people meeting weekly together in a home around a meal for prayer, worship and bible reading. One week every month, The Way have been joining with the wider SPC community for our Sunday morning service.

The Way gives financially together into a restricted fund used for the mission and community life of The Way. Throughout the year, The Way have seen some spiritual growth in their members but have not had any numerical growth. Some of the original 12 members have left and now 9 people attend regularly. The Way have lead several missional outreach activities within the community, including social events such as a murder mystery evening, Christmas party, and street snow party.

In April 2023, The Way started to explore the possibility of planting their next house church into the Port Clarence area. To begin with this showed potential, connecting with other Christians on the estate, and beginning a weekly meeting with 6-7 people. Unfortunately, the host for this meeting was no longer able to offer the space to meet and these meetings therefore came to an end. The Way are taking time to prayerfully consider if they should pursue Port Clarence as their next area for church planting.

Church Plant - Overseas

In 2022 we established a church overseas. For reasons of safety this report is brief as the church meets in an Asian country where Christian expressions of faith are illegal. This underground church is lead by local lay leaders, supported through SPC. Throughout 2023 the church continued to grow in number and there were baptisms with new leaders emerging.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Total receipts on unrestricted funds were £160,925 (2022: £129,423) of which £135,068 (2022: £81,463) was unrestricted voluntary donations (including gift aid recovered), and a further £13,180 (2022: £13,893) was grant income. In addition, £89,219 (2022: £91,865) was received for restricted purposes.

£148,204 (2022: £132,370) was spent from unrestricted funds to provide Christian ministry, including a contribution to the Diocese of Durham of £50,000 (2022: £45,000).

Before fund transfers, there was a net expenditure on unrestricted funds of £12,272 (2022: £2,898) and a net income on restricted funds of £454 (2022: £5,448). As a result, total reserves increased by £13,176 (2022: £2,550).

Reserves Policy

It is PCC policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds that equates to at least six months' unrestricted payments (as opposed to the Charity Commission guidance of three months' unrestricted payments). This is because so many of our salary obligations are funded by restricted donations. The policy gives an unrestricted reserve requirement of equivalent to £74,102 (one half of £148,204). The year ended with unrestricted funds of £73,111 (2022: £55,423).

On behalf of the Parochial Church Council:



Revd Mark Miller
Chair
Date: 9thth May 2024

Peter Akers
Church Warden
Date: 9thth May 2024

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF STOCKTON
PARISH CHURCH**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the church for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the church's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The church's trustees 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.

Basis of independent examiner's report

Since the church's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. that accounting records were not kept as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. that the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. that the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Act; or
4. that there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

Signed:

For and on behalf of Gillian Duffy & Co Ltd, 1 The Beeches, Stokesley, Middlesbrough
[DATE]

Stockton Parish Church
Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2023 Total funds	2022 Total funds
	Notes	£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Voluntary income	2(a)	148,248	89,219	237,467	193,455
Activities for generating funds	2(b)	1,228		1,228	1,667
Investment income	2(c)	8,255		8,255	19,114
Incoming resources from charitable activities					
Charitable Activities	2(d)	3,194		3,194	7,102
Total incoming resources		160,925	89,219	250,145	221,338
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Costs of generating funds					
Church activities	3(a)	148,204	88,765	236,969	218,787
Total resources expended		148,204	88,765	236,969	218,787
NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES BEFORE TRANSFERS					
		12,722	454	13,176	2,550
Gross transfers between funds		(74)	74	-	-
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before other recognised gains and losses		12,648	528	13,176	2,550
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		55,423	26,879	82,302	79,752
Prior year adjustment (heating loan)		5,040		5,040	
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		73,111	27,407	100,518	82,302

Stockton Parish Church
Balance sheet
as at 31 December 2023

	2023	2022
	Notes	
CURRENT ASSETS		
Debtors	14,604	1,477
Gift aid to be claimed	5,810	9,634
Cash at bank and in hand	95,396	90,705
	<u>115,810</u>	<u>101,815</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Creditors	6,120	16,378
Accruals	500	500
Deferred income	5,000	
Other creditors	366	366
PAYE Control	3,072	1,872
Pension Contribution Control Account	230	397
Rounding	4	
	<u>15,291</u>	<u>19,514</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>100,518</u>	<u>82,302</u>
FUNDS	7, 8	
Unrestricted funds	73,111	55,423
Restricted funds	27,407	26,879
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>100,518</u>	<u>82,302</u>

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 20th May 2024 and signed on its behalf:



Revd Mark Miller
PCC Chair
Date: 9th May 2024

1. Accounting Policies

Basis of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared under the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the current Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities and applicable accounting standard FRS102.

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

This is the first year that the accounts have been prepared using the accrual accounting method and this has resulted in the adjustment to the opening reserves. There was insufficient information to prepare comparatives for all balances, however comparatives are available on the Statement of Financial Activities.

Fund accounting

Restricted Funds comprise revenue donations or grants for a specific PCC activity intended by the donor. Where these funds have unspent balances, interest on their pooled investment is apportioned to the individual funds on an average balance basis.

Unrestricted Funds are income funds which are to be spent on the PCC's general purposes.

Designated funds are general funds set aside by the PCC for use in the future. Project funds are designated for particular projects for administration purposes only. Designated funds remain unrestricted and the PCC will move any surplus to other general funds.

Incoming resources

Planned giving, collections and similar donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming resource to which they relate is received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is entitled to the use of the resources, their ultimate receipt is considered reasonably certain and the amounts due are readily quantifiable. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Resources expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan parish share expected to be paid over is accounted for when due. All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Fixed assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s.10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011.

Movable church furnishings held by the vicar and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For anything acquired prior to 2021 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements. In future years any individual item with a cost more than £2,000 will be treated as a fixed asset and depreciated on a straight line basis over four years, and items with costs below this amount will be written off when incurred.

2 Income

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
INCOMING RESOURCES				
2(a) Voluntary income				
Gift aid	16,794	998	17,791	13,833
Grants	13,180	73,739	86,919	103,774
Planned giving	101,265	14,382	115,648	69,615
Legacy	10,000		10,000	
Collections and other giving	7,010	100	7,110	6,234
	<u>148,248</u>	<u>89,219</u>	<u>237,467</u>	<u>193,455</u>
2(b) Activities for generating funds				
Fundraising events	1,228		1,228	1,667
	<u>1,228</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,228</u>	<u>1,667</u>
2(c) Investment income				
Rents received	8,168		8,168	18,838
Dividends and interest	87		87	276
	<u>8,255</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,255</u>	<u>19,114</u>
2(d) Incoming resources from charitable activities				
Fees retained by the PCC	3,194		3,194	7,102
Total incoming resources	<u>160,925</u>	<u>89,219</u>	<u>250,145</u>	<u>221,338</u>

		Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
3	EXPENDITURE				
3(a)	Church activities				
	Diocesan Parish Contribution	50,000		50,000	45,000
	Bell maintenance			-	392
	CCLI	1,018	-	1,018	944
	Cleaning and sundries	1,611	-	1,611	657
	Electricity	5,500	-	5,500	3,307
	Gas	14,495	-	14,495	8,627
	Insurance	5,740	-	5,740	4,693
	Maintenance	3,388	15,495	18,883	12,710
	Refuse and Pest Control	913	-	913	830
	Water	651	-	651	649
	Consultants	-	480	480	120
	Total church running costs	33,318	15,975	49,292	32,929
	Petch Street costs	3,994		3,994	4,297
	Office costs	3,423	1,546	4,969	4,732
	Training - SDF			-	1,770
	Water rates - Curate	269	-	269	266
	Water rates - Vicar	656	-	656	605
	Youth for Christ - Interns	125	-	125	1,500
	MEV	871	-	871	-
	Employment costs (NI, pension etc)	96	2,742	2,839	4,747
	Employee costs	9,980	55,295	65,274	86,584
	Staff expenses	7,327	460	7,787	5,672
	Total staff costs	19,324	58,497	77,821	101,144
	Discipleship	1,436	1,835	3,271	3,626
	Evangelism	-	517	517	-
	Alpha course	166		166	387
	Mission Giving	7,323	2,123	9,446	8,147
	Publicity	2,497	22	2,518	2,876
	Schools work	63	-	63	
	Outreach	541	-	541	
	Total Evangelism/Mission	10,590	2,662	13,252	11,411
	Fellowship	1,430	883	2,314	1,720
	Worship	24,101	7,367	31,468	8,482
	Bank charges	366		366	308
	Cash discrepancies				20
	Gift aid paid to charities	221		221	79
	Heating Loan repayment				5,040
	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	148,204	88,765	236,969	218,787

5 STAFF COSTS

	2023	2022
Wages and salaries	73,061	86,583
Pension contributions	1,257	1,859
Employer NIC	1,243	2,554
Average number of employees	2.6	3.4

There were no employee benefits to key management personnel in the current or previous year.

TRUSTEES' EXPENSES

PCC members were paid expenses throughout the year for cost incurred on behalf of the PCC. None of these costs related to their services as members of the PCC.

RELATED PARTIES

Unrestricted donations of £19,173 (2022: £21,673) were received from related parties (PCC members).

6 FIXED ASSETS

Movable church furnishings held by the vicar and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For anything acquired prior to 2021 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements. In future years any individual item with a cost more than £2,000 will be treated as a fixed asset and depreciated on a straight line basis over four years, and items with costs below this amount will be written off when incurred.

During 2023, a total of £15,100 (including £7,100 from the restricted SDF fund) was spent on repairing the ceiling of the church hall, and this was categorised as maintenance. A further £19,252 (including £4,743 from the restricted John Priestman fund) was spent on replacing the staging, and this was categorised as worship equipment. These items were not treated as fixed assets as they replaced or repaired parts of the church building.

7. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2023 Total funds	2022 Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Current assets	73,111	27,407	100,518	82,302
	<u>73,111</u>	<u>27,407</u>	<u>100,518</u>	<u>82,302</u>

8. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1 January 2023	Net movement in funds	Transfers between funds	At 31 December 2023
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	59,919	20,084	(15,627)	64,376
Mission Giving	544	(7,363)	15,553	8,735
	<u>60,463</u>	<u>12,722</u>	<u>(74)</u>	<u>73,111</u>
Restricted funds				
Sir John Priestman	4,743	(4,743)		-
Hall refurbishment	8,000	(8,000)		-
CRF	68	-		68
SDF	(317)	244	74	0
Eden	12,867	-	-	12,867
The Way	1,145	4,882	-	6,027
The Way Hub	374	3,211	-	3,584
Conference	-	552	-	552
New Wine	-	3,224	-	3,224
Doulos	-	1,085	-	1,085
	<u>26,879</u>	<u>454</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>27,408</u>
	<u>82,302</u>	<u>13,176</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>100,518</u>

The Restricted funds consist of:

CRF: grant received from the National Lottery Cultural Recovery Fund for Covid re-opening costs

Eden: monies given towards to development and work of the Mill Lane Eden team.

The Way Hub: monies for the administration and central network of 'The Way' church plant.

The Way 1: monies for the use of The Way 1 house church.

Conference: funds collected to attend this event

New Wine: funds collected to attend this event

Doulos: monies given to enable young people to attend a leadership course.

The Unrestricted funds consist of:

Mission Giving: for the donation to other missional charities

General fund