

The Parish Church of St Oswald, Durham

MEETING OF PARISHIONERS  
TO ELECT CHURCHWARDENS

and the ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

The meeting will be held on  
Sunday 28th April 2024 after the Parish Eucharist

AGENDA

1. Opening Prayers
2. Apologies for absence.
3. Minutes of the Meeting of 30 April 2023
4. Matters arising from the minutes
5. Election of Churchwardens
6. Electoral Roll Report
7. Annual Report
8. Financial Statements for 2023
9. Report on the Goods and Fabric of the Church
10. Report on the proceedings of Deanery Synod
11. Election of 2 PCC members.
12. Appointment of Independent Examiner
13. Renewal of Health and Safety and Safeguarding Policies
14. Any questions about church matters.

Additional papers : Music report  
Deanery Synod report  
Christian Aid  
Outreach Appeals

**Minutes of the St Oswald's Church, Durham  
Vestry Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting  
Sunday 30 April 2023**

- 1) Apologies for absence**  
Apologies: Sondra Pratt.

- 3) Approval of the minutes of the last Vestry Meeting and APCM held on 15 May 2022**  
The minutes were approved as an accurate record and signed by the chairman.

- 4) Matters arising from the Minutes**  
There were no matters arising.

**Vestry Meeting**

- 5) Election of churchwardens**

There were two nominations for churchwardens: Gill Aubrey was nominated by Sheila Hingley and Mark Davies. Sheila Hingley was nominated by Jane Weeks and Gill Aubrey. Both were duly elected as churchwardens for 2023/24. The meeting thanked Sheila Hingley for her work during 2022/23.

**Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

- 6) Electoral roll report**

The report was given by Sue Pitts, Electoral Roll officer. On the roll in 2022 there were 66 names, one name has been removed from the roll and two more have been added. The proportion of members living outside the parish is now two thirds to one third living in the parish. A copy of the roll with the names only has been displayed in the church porch. Sue was thanked for all her work in preparing the roll.

- 7) Annual report**

**Parish Priest's Report**

Peter's sermon at the preceding eucharist had highlighted the great voluntary service that many people provided to Christian churches enabling the sustaining of worship in all its forms through liturgy and music and in keeping the fabric of churches in good repair. Peter thanked warmly all those at St Oswald's who have provided help and support to activities in both church and parish. He highlighted the stronger altar party that has enhanced services, thanking Mark Davies, Gary Eaborn and John and Andrew Wort, celebrating today their first communion after confirmation. Thanks were given to the retired clergy, who provide support for services and are involved in other aspects of life at St Oswald's, including Jane Middleton who has helped to provide Communion services at Hallgarth Nursing Home. We have much appreciated the presence of the ordinands, and Gary Eaborn throughout his second year in Durham.

The Sunday Eucharist has fully emerged from the restrictions of lockdown and the Wednesday morning BCP Communion service has continued to be appreciated. We have continued to provide a home on Saturday mornings for the services of the Orthodox Church at Durham.

Several weddings and funerals have taken place and Jane Walker was thanked for her work as chief contact and organiser for these and other activities in church and Institute. It has also been good to welcome concerts back into St Oswald's again and Sue Pitts and volunteer stewards were thanked for enabling these.

**Outreach Appeals**

A full written report was provided by Bob Layton on the 2022/23 appeals. At the meeting he praised the generosity of the congregation for the amounts raised - £1,317 for the local St Margaret's Centre and £2,050 for work on reconstruction in Ukraine.

### Music Report

The Director of Music, David Harris, had supplied a written report circulated with the papers. He reported back on the first year of choral scholarships mentioning the contribution of the scholars to the expanded music programme during the year. David was thanked by the meeting for his work and also for the monthly music notes he has produced, listing and giving background on the music sung in services.

### Safeguarding Report

Gill Aubrey, Safeguarding Officer, had provided a written report but it was not circulated with the papers but will be circulated by email after the meeting. She reported verbally that all safeguarding training had been completed by members of the PCC and she would continue to remind people when they needed to update this. She was thanked for her work as Safeguarding Officer.

### **8. Financial Statements for 2022**

The accounts and financial commentary by the Treasurer were received by the meeting. The Treasurer commented that St Oswald's had come through the financial crises of the year better than she had feared. The value of stocks and shares was badly affected by world events such as the Russian invasion of Ukraine, but St Oswald's investments had held up.

Planned giving by standing order and envelope continued to hold up at £30,502 with one-off gift-aided donations bringing in £5,155. We also continued to benefit from several grants. Sam Jackson had taken over from Neil Jones as Gift Aid officer and had already recouped expenditure owed to the church. The Institute began to be used again after the end of pandemic restrictions and income in 2022 was £18,056 compared with £11,837 in 2021.

The biggest outgoing had been on the Parish Share of £40,000. Just £12,000 of this had come from the General Account this year which meant the remaining £28,000 had to come from the income generated by the Combined Charities account. £30,358 had been paid out of the General account to cover the building work on the Institute.

### **9. Fabric and Goods of the Church**

The fabric report was not circulated with the meeting papers, for which the churchwarden apologised. It would be circulated by email separately after the meeting. Sheila Hingley gave a verbal report instead. With only one churchwarden, a lot of whose time had to be spent in supporting the revival of services and other church activities, it had been difficult to do anything more than deal with repairs and maintenance, and health and safety checks. She thanked those who had helped her with these things, especially Jane Walker.

£3,998 had been spent on regular servicing and maintenance of the church. Main expenditure was on:

- Church heating. This had failed twice in the year and appeared to be caused by electrical rather than engineering faults. It had remained working throughout the very coldest of the winter weather.
- Lighting. A new set of LED light fittings had replaced the faulty lights in the Vicar's Vestry. These had provided a great improvement in visibility. Lightfoots had also replaced almost all the bulbs in the south aisle fittings as well as the inside and outside porch lights at south and north entrances. All these replacements were of LED lights as part of our general campaign to replace all the lighting with more economical and ecological fittings.
- Sound system. During 2022 a new sound system was trialled and the improved quality and volume of sound, particularly from the lectern microphone, is now accepted as the norm by the congregation.

### Churchyards

Thanks were given to Roz Layton for her continued good work on the churchyards. This year it had been agreed to pay for churchyard maintenance at regular intervals, resulting in better control of undergrowth and shrubbery and more regular clearing of paths and drains

Sheila Hingley flagged up outstanding large repairs that would need to be tackled this year:

**Short-term**

- Replacement of the tower roof
- Replacement of the large noticeboards outside the church
- Pursuance of the postponed repair of the Bow Cemetery lychgate

**Longer-term**

- Replacement of the boiler in the church by a greener form of heating
- Repair on the stonework at the east end of the church

**Institute**

A Development Group had been set up which included Roz Layton, Sheila Hingley, Boyd Sims-Williams, Carol Forster, Jane Walker and Mark Bonnington. Bill Katak, the local architect who had worked on the refurbishment of Shincliffe church hall, had been commissioned to provide ideas and drawing for completing the toilets and redesigning the use of space in the main hall, the kitchen and the office. He had already produced some interesting ideas.

**10. & 11. Deanery Synod**

Peter reported back on the activities of the Deanery Synod, highlighting the initiative on poverty. There was still only one member of Deanery Synod, Sheila Hingley, and Peter asked if anyone was willing to stand for the position.

**12. Election of 3 PCC members**

Peter thanked all the members of the PCC for their hard work this year. The members of the PCC who had finished their terms were Gill Aubrey, Sue Pitts and Simone Niblock. Nominations had been put forward for Simone Niblock and Peter Shambrook. These were duly elected. Sue Pitts came onto the Deanery Synod.

**13. Appointment of independent examiner for the accounts**

The meeting thanked Andrew French for his work in this role, and reappointed him for 2023/24.

**13. Health & Safety and Safeguarding**

The meeting formally affirmed the Safeguarding policy and the Health & Safety policy.

**The meeting closed at 1:10pm with the Grace**

**PARISH CHURCH OF ST OSWALD  
DURHAM**

**ANNUAL REPORT  
and  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
of the  
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
for the year ended 31 December 2023**

**Rector**

**The Revd Peter Kashouris  
St Oswald's Vicarage, Church Street,  
Durham DH1 3DG**

**Bank**

**Barclays Bank plc, 6 Market Place, Durham City, DH1 3ND**

**Independent Examiner**

**Mr AP French, 49 Ancroft Garth, High Shincliffe, Durham DH1 2UD**

The governance of the Church of England now comes under the Church Representation and Ministers Measure 2019, and the Church Representation Rules 2020. These are new, and simplified rules.

### PCC Membership

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Rector, the Rev.'d Peter Kashouris, in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

The PCC membership coming into the annual meeting 2024 is:

<b>PCC Membership April 2024</b>			
	<b>Name</b>	<b>Capacity on PCC (and position)</b>	<b>Term of Office</b>
1.	Peter Kashouris	Rector (Chairman)	Ex-officio
2.	Gill Aubrey	Churchwarden (Safeguarding Officer)	Ex-officio
3.	Sheila Hingley	Churchwarden and Deanery Synod 2023-2026	Ex-officio
4.	Sue Pitts	Deanery Synod 2023-2026	Ex-officio
5.	Mark Davies	Elected member	1:2022-2025
6.		Vacancy	2:2023-2026
7.	Peter Shambrook	Elected member	1:2023-2026
8.	David Harris	Elected member (Director of Music)	2:2022-2025
9.	Roz Layton	Elected member	2:2022-2025
10.	Gordon Mitchell	Elected member	2:2022-2025
11.	Jane Weeks	Elected member	1:2022-2025
12.	Fenella Wright	Elected member (Treasurer)	1:2021-2024
13.		Vacancy	1:2023-2026
14.	John McManners	Co-opted at December 2020 PCC, and resigning at this meeting	

The PCC is comprised of 9 elected members. Simone Niblock resigned in August 2023 as she moved away from the area.

In 2023, the PCC met in March, June, October and November.

## **LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

### **Data protection – GDPR, May 2018**

The church has complied with the new GDPR regulation, using a form to seek the consent of its church members to hold contact details and to be in touch with them for limited reasons, to which they could agree or not.

### **Safeguarding**

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

**Safeguarding and Health & Safety** appear on every PCC agenda.

### **Electoral Roll Report**

Sue Pitts, the Electoral Roll Officer, has put a copy of the revised Roll in the Church, with just the names, in accordance with the Data Protection Act.

### **The Rector's Report**

The Sunday Eucharist and Wednesday Holy Communion services continued well; and there was Evensong, approximately once per month. Thanks to Mark Davies, John Wort, Andrew Wort, for their help; and also the Rev.'d Gavin Wort, John McManners, Alan Middleton for their super ministry; and to those who set up for the services and welcome people. David and the choir have given excellent warmth and energy to the services throughout the year, and have added a lot to the worship at St. Oswald's. Highlights were the joint Covenant Service with Elvet Methodist Church, joint Ash Wednesday service with St Mary's College, Holy Week and Easter, when the Church was beautifully adorned with flowers, many thanks to Wendy and Ann Stevenson, the Ascension Day service at Finchale Priory, and our Advent and Christmas Carol service,

School assemblies and services at Church have been well attended.

It was good to have ordinands on placement with us again: Marc and Helen

Several weddings and funerals took place. The weddings tend to be very big occasions, usually involving university alumni who live far away. Many thanks to Jane Walker for all the extra handling needed on these occasions and to Alan Middleton for taking a number of them.

The social committee have generously catered for a number of occasions, often responding at relatively short notice.

Hallgarth Nursing Home closed. Jane Middleton and I have been taking services at Sherburn Hospital.

It was good to have a number of concerts in Church, thanks very much to Sue Pitts and all the welcomers.

I am very thankful for the generosity shown by so many people in various tasks that make the life and ministry of St. Oswald's flourish, and enable it to contribute to the wider ministry of the diocese.

**Peter Kashouris**

April 2024

## **Outreach Appeals:**

### **St Oswald's Outreach Committee: report on Advent/Christmas 2022 and Lent/Easter 2023 appeals**

For our 2022-23 outreach programme the St Oswald's Outreach Committee agreed, with the support of the PCC, to hold two appeals, the first over Advent and Christmas 2022 for a local charity, the second over Lent and Easter 2023 for a national or international charity.

#### *Advent and Christmas appeal*

The St Margaret's Centre is a well-established local charity in Durham that works to promote people's mental health. The main aim of the Centre is to provide a safe, therapeutic environment that allows those who attend to regain their confidence, motivation and self-esteem while learning new skills and meeting people. The Centre houses a well-equipped woodwork department and an arts and crafts room where instructors teach a wide range of skills such as painting, drawing, sewing and model making, and a café. The Centre is situated on Margery Lane at the edge of the Priory Allotments and has its own allotment. Some of the fruit and vegetables grown there are supplied to the café.

The Outreach Committee decided, with the PCC's approval, to make the St Margaret's Centre the subject of St Oswald's Christmas appeal. The Woodwork Centre manager told us that they urgently needed a new bandsaw capable of more robust or intricate work than their present one. The saw they had in mind would cost £2,200. Our outreach appeals typically raise £1,000 so we could make a significant contribution to the new saw. As it turned out, we were even more generous than usual, raising a total of £1,317.50 (including gift aid). Thus enabled the Centre to buy a more sophisticated saw than they had originally intended. We received a warm letter of thanks from the Deputy Manager, and a donation of four bird boxes plus two bat boxes for us to erect in St Oswald's churchyard.

#### *Lent and Easter appeal (22<sup>nd</sup> February to 16<sup>th</sup> April): Contributing to the reconstruction of the Ukraine*

24th February 2023 was the first anniversary of Russia's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine. Since then nearly eight million people have been displaced. Destruction has been immense. Some cities and towns have been almost obliterated. President Putin's stated aim has been to wear down Ukrainian morale to the point of surrender. To help with the huge task of rebuilding the country and maintaining morale is almost certainly the most effective non-violent contribution that can be made to supporting Ukraine's people.

With the PCC's approval, Outreach Committee decided to channel our contribution through the DEC (Disasters Emergency Committee), an umbrella group of UK charities including the British Red Cross, Christian Aid and Save the Children, which coordinates collective appeals to raise funds to provide emergency aid and rapid relief to people caught up in disasters and humanitarian crises around the world. DEC charities have prioritised helping the most vulnerable, and empowering local people and organisations to reach them. In Ukraine, the DEC is working alongside international partners and the Ukrainian authorities.

Initially, the majority of funds have been spent inside Ukraine itself, with the rest helping refugees in neighbouring countries, or supporting regional initiatives to improve the overall response. This has included establishing a safeguarding hub to help prevent trafficking. I'm delighted to report that our generosity in this appeal was even greater than was the case of the St Margaret's Centre: including gift aid due, we raised a total of £2,050! Well done, everyone who contributed.

Bob Layton, Chair of the Outreach Committee.

*J Christian Aid*



## Fabric Report 2023

This year the Quinquennial Inspection that was due in 2022 was done (delayed due to Covid) and we are waiting for the surveyor's report to see what work needs to be carried out. Regular church servicing and maintenance of the church has cost a total of over £6000.

**Heating** – Unfortunately the boiler hasn't been working well this year and numerous visits have been made by TW Steam and R Lightfoot to try and rectify the problems. TW Steam carried out the annual inspection of the church boiler at the end of August. We have also met with the Martin Howard the Diocesan Mission Secretary to discuss the best heating solutions for the church.

**Electrical services** - R Lightfoot Ltd have replaced the lights in the Vicars vestry and the toilet with new LED fitting. We are continuing to replace the light bulbs, when necessary, with new LED ones. This continues our programme of replacing uneconomical lighting with economical LED lighting throughout the church.

**Sound system** – This was replaced at the end of last year and has produced better sound after some adjustments during the year.

**Outside gas cupboard** – New frame and doors were fitted by Mackenzie Building Contractors.

**Choir vestry carpet** - This was replaced as it was worn out and rucked causing a potential trip hazard.

The yearly PAT testing, fire extinguisher maintenance, roof alarm service and gutter cleaning have all been completed this year.

**Institute** - 2023 saw the beginning of a new project to complete the revamping of the toilets and to generally upgrade the Main Hall side of the building. The creation of a new accessible toilet and 2 urinals was part of the major upgrading of the Appleby side of the Institute, along with work on the main drains, but this left only 1 single old toilet to supplement this new provision. The Institute Development Group met to discuss Mr Bill Katak's plans to create a phased project to upgrade the Main Hall, kitchen, storage areas, entrances, lighting and ceiling to the hall. Phase 1 was completed in December 2023, with secondary glazing attached to all the windows in the Main Hall, the kitchen, staircase and the office. It will be interesting to see what effect this has on the heating bills. Bill Katak drew up all the plans, elevations etc. needed to apply for planning permission, which was granted in January 2024. The next stage is to apply for external grant funding for the project.

New padded chairs have been purchased with dollies to make it easier to move them around.

As part of the church's endeavour to improve its carbon footprint, we now have controls for the heating of the Main Hall on an app called the Hive. Our administrator, Jane Walker, can alter the heating remotely wherever she is and we are monitoring use and using more hands-on, flexible control of the temperature in the hall, which can often feel too hot. Repairs and maintenance of the hall has been a matter of holding the line until the upgrading of the space is underway.

**St Oswald's churchyard** - Our monthly gardener has continued to keep the churchyard tidy. He is making progress on the riverside boundary and on the south boundary, reducing the ivy which was creeping across the grass and over the gravestones, while leaving pocket habitats and insect hotels.

On the Church Street boundary the wall is visible and people walking past gain more than glimpses of the church and across the churchyard. Increasing the views seems to reduce the amount of litter.

The bonfire heap persisted through November 5th as it was too sodden to light, although later in the month we enjoyed a small bonfire adjacent to the substantial pile of branches. Now it will have to wait until nesting season is over.

A visit from Val Standen, a well-known local naturalist with huge knowledge of lepidoptery, produced very helpful information and enjoyable debate between Val and Clare Stancliffe over encouraging conditions that favour orchids (Clare's passion) and those that favour butterflies (Val's). Among their agreements was the advice to retain a stand of unmown grass for butterflies to breed on. We identified a suitably sunny spot near the vicarage wall. John will continue to cut winding paths through the remainder of the grass and cut a border on either side of the paths. County Council staff will be asked to mow in late Spring and again in September, as usual.

**Bow Cemetery** - Is once again a joyful scene of Spring wildflowers. During the winter a lot of the rampant 'snowberry' by Elvet Hill Road and on the boundary near the Middle East Centre has been reduced, paid for by a family with three graves on that side, which are now visible. Work parties to cut the grass have ceased so we will continue to strim the paths and may have to hire a mower for a day at the end of summer. When the lychgate is finally repaired it will be a wonderfully tranquil site.

**Stockton Road Cemetery** - This continues to receive compliments, thanks to a regular band of student volunteers and a wonderful display of primroses. In the Autumn, Council staff gave it a severe haircut, so that all winter it has looked remarkably tame - for a while. There is no doubt there is increasing species diversity underfoot.

### **Safeguarding Report**

**Safeguarding and Health & Safety** appear on every PCC agenda.

Durham Diocese has introduced an online Parish Dashboard and Safeguarding Hub to help Safeguarding Officers keep records of safeguarding training and DBS checks in the church by producing reports and email alerts when action needs to be taken regarding these. This has taken some time to set up, including online and in person training, for me as the information has to be input individually for each person and role. Our PCC are all DBS checked and all of them have completed the Basic Safeguarding course and most of them the Foundation course. DBS certificates need be kept in a safe place by the individual as I do not have access to them.

Our annually revised Church Safeguarding Policy is on the ACNY website and is displayed in Church and institute with my contact details. Safeguarding and Health & Safety appear on every PCC agenda.

### **PARISH SAFEGUARDING POLICY**

The following policy was agreed at the Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting held in March 2019 and by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in October 2020. *- NB Sept 2023*

In accordance with the Church of England Safeguarding Policy our church is committed to:

- Promoting a safer environment and culture.
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the church.
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation.

- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons.
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons.
- Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others.

The Parish will:

- Create a safe and caring place for all.
- Have a named Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) to work with the incumbent and the PCC to implement policy and procedures.
- Safely recruit, train and support all those with any responsibility for children, young people and adults to have the confidence and skills to recognise and respond to abuse.
- Ensure that there is appropriate insurance cover for all activities involving children and adults undertaken in the name of the parish.
- Display in church premises and on the Parish website the details of who to contact if there are safeguarding concerns or support needs.
- Listen to and take seriously all those who disclose abuse.
- Take steps to protect children and adults when a safeguarding concern of any kind arises, following House of Bishops guidance, including notifying the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA) and statutory agencies immediately.
- Offer support to victims/survivors of abuse regardless of the type of abuse, when or where it occurred.
- Care for and monitor any member of the church community who may pose a risk to children and adults whilst maintaining appropriate confidentiality and the safety of all parties.
- Ensure that health and safety policy, procedures and risk assessments are in place and that these are reviewed annually.
- Review the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Practices at least annually.

Each person who works within this church community will agree to abide by this policy and the guidelines established by this church. This church appoints Gill Aubrey as the Parish Safeguarding Officer.

PSO	Gill Aubrey	01388 665783.
Incumbent	Peter Kashouris	0191 374 1681 email: <a href="mailto:pzkashouris@gmail.com">pzkashouris@gmail.com</a>

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Oswald, Durham -  
Registered Charity Number 1196296**

**Independent Examiner's report on the accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December  
2023**

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are set out on the attached pages, is in respect of an examination carried out under Regulation 3(3) of the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 and section 145 of the Charities Act 2011.

**Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner**

As the members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('The Act').

I report that, in carrying out my examination of the PCC's accounts pursuant to section 145 of the 2011 Act, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Basis of this Report**

My examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

**Independent Examiner's Statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the PCC as required by section 130 of the Act: or
2. The accounts do not accord with those records.

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

(Signed)

Name **ANDREW PETER FRENCH**

Address **49 ANDROAT GATE  
HOU SHINCLIFFE DURHAM**

Date

**12 March**

2024



**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Oswald, Durham - Registered Charity Number 1196296**

**General Account Summary of Receipts and Payments for Year Ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023**

<b>Receipts</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
Incoming receipts from donors			
Planned giving	01	41,536 ✓	43,135
Collections/donations	02	5,508 ✓	2,852
Grants	03	538 ✓	7,785
Institute income			18,056
from King's Church		11,940 ✓	10,150
from Main Hall		7,038 ✓	7,906
Other activities	04	<u>12,374</u> ✓	<u>7,189</u>
Total receipts		<b>78,934</b> ✓	<b>79,007</b> ✓
<b>Payments</b>			
Ministry	05	25,598 ✓	14,231
Other activities	06	22,610 ✓	14,545
Music	07	14,506 ✓	11,966
Institute costs	08	12,338 ✓	30,358
Other costs	09	<u>13,146</u> ✓	<u>10,978</u>
Total payments		<b>88,198</b> ✓	<b>82,078</b> ✓
Balance 01/01		11,060 ✓	14,131
Surplus/(Deficit) for year		(9,264) ✓	(3,071)
Balance 31/12		1,796 ✓	11,060

Totals may not add/balance exactly due to rounding.

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Oswald, Durham -  
Registered Charity Number 1196296**

**General Account Receipts** for Year Ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 – **notes** (and refer to  
note numbers given on page 2 above)

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
1.1 Standing orders	30760	29392
1.2 Envelopes	1527	1110
1.3 Other gift-aided donations, including yellow gift-aid envelopes	1943 ✓	5155
1.4 Gift-aid recovery	<u>7306</u> ✓	<u>7478</u>
	<b>41536</b> ✓	<b>43135</b>
2.1 Loose cash collections	320 ✓	581
2.2 Sundry donations	2717 ✓	2271
2.3 Bequest	1000 ✓	-----
2.4 Church box	<u>1471</u> ✓	-----
	<b>5508</b> ✓	<b>2852</b>
3.1 County Council	-----	2667
3.2 Listed Places of Worship Scheme	438	2327
3.3 Diocese of Durham – energy costs grant	-----	2561
3.3 Ecclesiastical	-----	130
3.5 Lord Crewe Charity	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>
	<b>538</b>	<b>7785</b>
4.1 Magazine	545 ✓	604
4.2 Weddings/funerals	7990 ✓	3741
4.3 Concerts/recitals in Church	1322 ✓	570
4.4 Fundraising	422 ✓	486
4.5 Bank interest	360 ✓	58
4.6 Shincliffe contribution	<u>1735</u> ✓	<u>1721</u>
	<b>12374</b> ✓	<b>7189</b>

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Oswald, Durham -  
Registered Charity Number 1196296**

**General Account Payments for Year Ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 – notes** (and refer to  
note numbers given on page 2 above)

		<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>Ministry</b>			
5.1	Regional church contributions, including Share	21213	12371
5.2	Missions and Charities	1330	338
5.3	Vicarage costs	471	438
5.4	Clergy working expenses	1211	1084
5.5	Other clergy	<u>1373</u>	-----
		<b>25598</b>	<b>14231</b>
<b>Church</b>			
6.1	Gas	1525	
	Water	122	
	Insurance	6379	
	Cleaning	2376	
	Electricity	985	
		11387	11422
6.2	Church maintenance	6233	2614
6.3	Support of church services	3676	509
6.4	Churchyard and Bow Cemetery maintenance	<u>1314</u>	-----
		<b>22610</b>	<b>14545</b>
<b>Music</b>			
7.1	Organ playing and choir direction	8550	7836
7.2	Organ and piano tuning	1392	619
7.3	Music purchases	903	300
7.4	Music scholars	<u>3661</u>	<u>3211</u>
		<b>14506</b>	<b>11966</b>
8.	Institute (breakdown provided for first time for 2023)		
	Main Hall electricity	1666	
	Gas (whole Institute, of which 50% charged to King's Church)	1466	

Insurance	1496	
Water (of which 50% charged to King's Church)	327	
Cleaning (part charged to King's Church)	3095	
Waste collection (67% charged to King's Church)	693	
Sewerage (of which 50% charged to King's Church)	412	
Appleby electricity (100% charged to King's Church)	2094	
Maintenance/repairs	<u>1089</u>	
Other	<b>12338</b>	
9.1 Administration	12291	10900
9.2 Bow Cemetery	30	78
9.3 Magazine	<u>825</u>	
	<b>13146</b>	<b>10978</b>



## General Account Notes

There have been increases in planned giving by standing order, and giving by envelope, which are very much appreciated. There have also been a number of one-off gift-aided payments. Gift aid obtained from planned giving and one-off donations is an extremely important part of our annual income: £7,306 in 2023 (ie. nearly 10% of our total income).

Grants are variable from year to year.

It is good to see the increase in income from concerts in Church.

We are hoping that the recently installed CollecTin will make a difference to Church income in future. (Many thanks are owing to Gill Aubrey for overcoming all the obstacles to its installation.)

Note that Parish Share has been paid as follows: 50% (£20,000) from our income, and 50% (£20,000) from the Combined Charities account (having been granted to the Combined Charities account by the Vicar and Churchwarden at the time from the Vicar and Churchwarden charities).

Charitable giving: remember that the bulk of our giving, which is co-ordinated by the Appeals Committee, raises thousands but that none of the money passes through the PCC's accounts. The amounts raised are sent directly to the charities concerned.

The charitable giving of £1330 noted at section 5.2 on page 4 above includes donations made by the Social Committee from the profits on social activities:

£359 to the Turkey/Syria Earthquake appeal; and

£100 to the Durham Food Bank.

(Note that a further £100 donated by the Social Committee to Daft as a Brush will appear in the 2024 accounts, because the payment did not clear before 31/12/2023.)

These charitable donations highlight the hard work and importance of our Social Committee.

There were various other small donations, including to Durham Churches Together, Royal British Legion and for bibles for St Oswald's School leavers.

For those who are interested in how much we spend on utilities, you can for the first time see a breakdown of the running costs of Church and Institute, at pages 4 and 5 above.

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Oswald, Durham -  
Registered Charity Number 1196296**

**Combined Charities Account Summary of Receipts and Payments for Year Ending 31<sup>st</sup>  
December 2023**

**Receipts**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
1. Grants from Vicar and Churchwarden charities		
Caldcleugh income account	-----	28000
Ternent income account	-----	6000
Caldcleugh invested funds	50000	-----
2. Transfer from CCLA Ashton funds to cover Ashton Distributions	129	-----
3. Distributions from the Cock Charities		
Non-educational	55	110
Educational	11	23
4. Ex gratia payment from Barclays	50	-----
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>50245</b>	<b>34133</b>

**Payments**

5.1 Parish Share	20000	28000
Fees paid to Diocese	354	266
5.2 Missions and Charities	166	164
5.3 Ministry expenses	-----	624
6.1 Church cleaning	-----	1008
6.2 Churchyard maintenance	-----	288
Church maintenance and repairs	-----	846
6.3 Support of Church services - general	-----	917
Support of Church services - music	95	489
7 Music scholars	334	1528
8 Institute	12803	2494

9	Magazine printing costs	-----	165
	Admin (DBS checks)	-----	5
<b>Total payments</b>		<b>33752</b> ✓	<b>36794</b>
	Balance brought forward on 1 <sup>st</sup> January	8589 ✓	11250
	Surplus/(Deficit) for year	16493	(2661)
	Balance carried forward on 31 <sup>st</sup> December	25082 ✕	8589 ✓

Totals may not add/balance exactly due to rounding.

### **Notes**

The PCC did not have sufficient income into the General account to pay the whole of the Parish Share pledged to the Diocese in 2023 (£40,000), so half was paid from the Combined Charities account.

Some expenses ordinarily paid out of the General (income) account were paid out of the Combined Charities account in the early part of 2023, owing to the need to maintain a safe balance in the General account.

**RESTRICTED**

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St  
Oswald, Durham - Registered Charity Number 1196296**

**The Rev. John Cock's Charities 2023**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>Non-educational (a/c 3395)</b>		
Current assets (from dividends) held in Combined Charities account, brought forward 01/01/2023	559	453
Receipts (BLK Charities UK Bond Fund A Inc)	55	110
Payments	6	4
Current assets held in Combined Charities account at 31/12/2023	608	559
*****		
<b>Capital fund at 31/12/2023</b>	<b>1362</b>	<b>1340</b>
<b>Education (a/c 3396)</b>		
Current assets (from dividends) held in Combined Charities account, brought forward 01/01/2023		
Combined Charities a/c	126	103
Receipts (BLK Charities UK Bond Fund A Inc)	11	23
Payments	0	0
Current assets held in Combined Charities account at 31/12/2023	137	126
*****		
<b>Capital fund at 31/12/2023</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>277</b>

**RESTRICTED**

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St  
Oswald, Durham - Registered Charity Number 1196296**

**Ashton Bequest funds 2023 (transferred to Adamson CCLA deposit  
account in February 2019)**

	2023	2022
Current assets brought forward in Combined Charities a/c 01/01/2023	51	111
13/03/2023 payment from CCLA deposit a/c	129	-----
Distribution	(60)	(60)
Current assets in Combined Charities a/c at 31/12/2023	120	51

**CCLA deposit account**

Brought forward 01/01/2023	3168 ✓	3137
13/03/2023 payment into Combined Charities account to cover distributions	(129)	-----
Interest	134	31
Deposit account at 31/12/2023	3173	3168

\*\*\*\*\*

Breakdown of interest accrued

January	8.11
February	8.90
March	9.06
April	10.04
May	10.15
June	10.99
July	11.15
August	12.37
September	13.21
October	13.17
November	13.79
December	13.42

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St  
Oswald, Durham - Registered Charity Number 1196296**

<b>Record of restricted funds</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>General account</b>		
Ayton Trust	462	462
Choir Fund (robes)	2813	2813
Social Committee funds (following closure of Social Committee a/c)	302	190
Organ Scholar Tuition Fund	-----	(205)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3577</b>	<b>3260</b>
<b>Combined Charities account</b>		
Cock Charity 3395	608	559
Cock Charity 3396	137	126
Ashton	120	51
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>865</b>	<b>736</b>

## Note on funds in the PCC General account restricted to the use of the Social Committee

Funds restricted to Social Committee @ 01/01/2023 190.00

### Income

	Restricted amount agreed to be held in PCC General account (as 'donation'/payment from PCC for PZK's guests @ Christmas lunch 2022)	80.00
01/02/2023	Donation from Durham Churches Together paid into PCC General account	100.00
24/02/2023	Profit from Murder Mystery evening paid into PCC General account for payment out to Turkey/Syria appeal	359.00
07/11/2023	Payment in following Shakespeare evening	233.00
	Restricted amount in PCC General account ('donation'/payment from PCC for PZK's guests @ Christmas lunch 2023)	78.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1040.00</b>

### Payments

07/02/23	Fundraising expenses	197.00
16/03/23	Payment out to Turkey/Syria appeal	359.00
03/04/23	Expenses of Murder Mystery evening	56.00
16/10/23	Payment out for expenses	26.00
21/12/2023	Foodbank donation	100.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>738.00</b>

Closing balance of funds in PCC General account restricted to Social Committee, 31/12/2023: 302.00

Note: the £100 donation by the Social Committee to Daff As A Brush did not clear from the PCC General account before 31/12/23, so it will appear in the 2024 accounts.



The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Oswald, Durham  
Receipts and payments - financial statement for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 (for both General account and Combined Charities account)

Registered Charity Number 1196296

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>						
Planned giving by SO	30760				30760	29392
Collections at services	3035				3035	2852
Grants	50488		229		50717	41785
Other donations (including gift-aided)	3470		1220		4690	6265
HMRC gift-aid recovery	7306				7306	7478
Legacies	1000				1000	0
Investment income	0		66		66	133
Church activities	30993		612		31605	25236
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>127052</b>		<b>2127</b>		<b>129179</b>	<b>113141</b>
<b>Payments</b>						
Parish share	40000				40000	40000
Clergy/staffing	21490				21490	21048
Church running/maintenance	31715		2108		33823	23310
Institute running/maintenance	25141				25141	34012
Giving and donations	572		924		1496	502
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>118918</b>		<b>3032</b>		<b>121950</b>	<b>118872</b>
Excess of receipts over payments	8134		(905)		7229	(5731)
Cash at bank/in hand 01/01	15653					
Cash at bank/in hand 31/12	22437		3996		19649	25381
			4442		26879	19649

[Totals may not add/balance exactly owing to rounding.]



The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Oswald, Durham

Receipts and payments – statement of assets and liabilities for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023

	Unrestricted £	Designated £	Restricted £	Endowment £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
<b>Cash funds</b>						
General & Combined Charities accounts	22437		4442		26879	19649
Ashton deposit account	-	-	3173	-	3173	3168
<b>Other monetary assets</b>						
Gift aid recoverable (estimate)	7500	-	-	-	7500	7478
Recoverable from LPoW (est.)	800	-	-	-	800	
<b>Investment assets</b>						
Cock (non-educational)	-	-	-	1362	1362	1340
Cock (educational)	-	-	-	281	281	277
Assets retained for Church use	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Liabilities</b>						
Cheques still to be banked	2796	-	-	-	2796	833

**E M Ternent Bequest**

**Charity number 508151**

**Annual Accounts for the  
year ended 31 December 2023**

## **Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the E M Ternent Bequest, charity number 508151**

This report on the accounts of the E M Ternent Bequest for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are set out on the attached pages, is in respect of an examination carried out under Regulation 3(3) of the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 and section 145 of the Charities Act 2011.

### **Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner**

As the Bequest trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('The Act').

I report that in carrying out my examination of the Bequest's accounts pursuant to section 145 of the 2011 Act I have followed all the applicable directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

### **Basis of this Report**

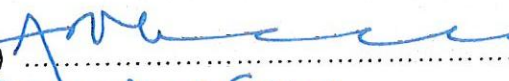
My examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Bequest and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

### **Independent Examiner's Statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Bequest as required by section 130 of the Act: or
2. The accounts do not accord with those records.

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

(Signed)  Date 12 March 2024  
Name ANDREW PETER FRENCH  
Address 49 ANCROFT GARTH  
HIGH STINCLIFFE Durham

## E M TERNENT BEQUEST – CHARITY NUMBER 508151

### REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

This Bequest (Charity Registration Number 508151) was established by the will of Miss E M Ternent, and requires that the Bequest should be held *"upon trust to pay the same to the Vicar and Churchwardens...with full power at their absolute discretion...as to both capital and income in or towards the upkeep and maintenance of the...Parish Church or in or towards the work of the said Church as the said Vicar and Churchwardens shall in their absolute discretion deem fit..."*.

The trustees during the year were:

The Rev'd P Z Kashouris (Rector)  
Dr S M Hingley (Churchwarden)  
Mrs G B Aubrey (Churchwarden)

St Oswald's Church is a grade II\* listed building. It has been the trustees' policy to leave the capital of the Bequest untouched so far as possible, and to use the dividends paid into the income account to meet maintenance and renovation costs of the church and of its associated buildings, as well as assisting the ministry of St Oswald's generally.

The Ternent investment funds were valued at £65,469 on 31st December 2023, compared to £59,613 on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022.

The investment funds have been held in the Charities Ethical Investment Funds since July 2021, when they were switched from the COIF Charities Investment Fund.

Dividends and interest paid into the Ternent income account were £1873 and £60 respectively in 2023, compared to £1,857 and £42 in 2022. The account held £2518 at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 compared to £584 at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022.

The Charity's correspondent can be contacted at St. Oswald's Church Institute, Church Street, Durham, DH1 3DQ.

P Z Kashouris

Date P. Kashouris 2024

**Ternent Bequest Accounts 2023****Charity number 508151****Ternent Investment fund (1) 494310001AA – AO1, re-numbered CO3062748-001**

Date	Units sold	Value (£) of units sold	Units held	Unit rate	Fund Value (£)
01/01/2023	0		313.91	274.08	860.36 ✓
30/06/2023	0		313.91	283.01	888.40
<b>31/12/2023</b>	0		313.91	301.00*	944.87 ✓

\*Note: In the statement of holdings @ 31/12/2023, this is given as £3.01.

**Ternent Investment fund (2) 494310002AA, re-numbered CO3062749-001**

Date	Units sold	Value (£) of units sold	Units held	Unit rate	Fund Value (£)
01/01/2023	0		21436.52	274.08	58,753.21 ✓
30/06/2023	0		21436.52	283.01	60,667.50
<b>31/12/2023</b>	0		21436.52	301.00*	64,523.93 ✓

\*Note: In the statement of holdings @ 31/12/2023, this is given as £3.01.

**Total value of funds (1) and (2) at 31/12/2023 (rounded figures): 65,469****Accumulated Income account**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
Brought forward 01/01	585	4686
COIF share dividends	1873	1857
COIF deposit interest	60	42
Paid out as grant to PCC	0	(6000)
Balance on 31/12	<b>2518</b>	<b>585</b>

See subsequent page for breakdown.

**Ternent Bequest Accounts 2023**

Charity number 508151

**Ternent Accumulated Income a/c 2023****B/f****585****Income transferred from COIF investment fund:**

	Ternent (1)	Ternent (2)	
28/02/23	6.87	469.46	
31/05/23	6.65	454.45	
31/08/23	6.65	454.45	
30/11/23	6.84	467.32	<b>1873</b>

**Interest retained**

January: 1.50; February: 1.64; March: 1.72; April: 3.46; May: 3.53;  
June: 3.88; July: 5.54; August: 6.15; September: 6.62; October: 8.48  
November: 8.88; December: 8.71 → **60**

**Withdrawn****0****TOTAL AT 31/12/2023****2518****Note: totalling figures are rounded**

**Florence Fanny Caldcleugh Bequest**

**Charity number 504509**

**Annual Report and accounts for the  
year ended 31 December 2023**



## FLORENCE FANNY CALDCLEUGH BEQUEST

Charity number 504509

### REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

This Bequest (Charity Registration Number 504509) was established by the will of Florence Caldcleugh who died on 1 January 1975, and requires that the Bequest should be held *"in trust for the Vicar and Churchwardens for the time being of the Parish Church of St Oswald's in the City of Durham to be used for the general benefit of the Church"*.

The trustees during the year were:

The Rev'd P Z Kashouris (Rector)  
Dr S M Hingley (Churchwarden)  
Mrs G B Aubrey (Churchwarden)

St Oswald's Church is a grade II\* listed building. It has been the trustees' policy to leave the capital of the Bequest untouched so far as possible, and to use the dividends paid into the income account to meet maintenance and renovation costs of the church and of its associated buildings, as well as assisting the ministry of St Oswald's generally.

The Caldcleugh investment fund was valued at £388,506 on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023, compared to £402,895 on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022.

The investment funds are held in the Charities Ethical Investment Fund, following their transfer from the COIF Charities Investment Fund in July 2021.

Units to a value of £50,000 were sold in order to grant that sum to the PCC to meet PCC expenses in 2023, including the work on the Institute.

Dividends and interest paid into the Caldcleugh Income Account were £11,505 and £249 respectively in 2023 compared to £12,554 and £89 in 2022. The account held £12,187 at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023, compared to £433 at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022.

The Charity's correspondent can be contacted at St. Oswald's Church Institute, Church Street, Durham, DH1 3DQ.

P Z Kashouris

Date P. Kashouris 2024



**Caldcleugh Bequest Accounts 2023****Charity number 504509****Investment fund 2023**

Date	Units sold	Value (£) of units sold	Units held	Unit rate	Fund Value
01/01/2023			146,999.24	274.08	402,895 ✓
19/01/2023	17,927.57	50,000.00	129,071.67	278.90	359,981
30/06/2023			129,071.67	283.01	365,286
31/12/2023			129,071.67	301.00*	388,506 ✓

\*Note: in the statement of holdings @ 31/12/2023, this is given as £3.01.

**Accumulated Income account**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
Brought forward	433	15,790
COIF share dividends	11505	12,554
COIF deposit interest	249	89
Grant to PCC (towards Parish Share)	0	(28,000)
<b>Balance</b>	<b>12187</b>	<b>433</b>

See subsequent page for breakdown.

(Totals may not add/balance exactly, due to rounding.)

## **Caldcleugh Bequest Accounts 2023 – Charity number 504509**

### Caldcleugh Accumulated Income a/c 2023

**Brought forward**

**433**

**Income transferred from investment fund:**

02/23      3219

05/23      2736

08/23      2736

11/23      2814

**11505**

**Interest retained**

January: 11.80; February: 1.25; March: 1.60;

April: 11.89; May: 12.15; June: 13.47;

July: 23.20; August: 25.74; September: 27.85;

October: 38.91; November: 40.74; December: 40.05 → **249**

**TOTAL AT 31/12/2023**

**12187**

**Note: figures are rounded**

### Advent and Christmas 2023

For this year's local charity we chose *Daft as a Brush Cancer Patient Care* which provides a free transport service to and from the Freeman/RVI Hospitals for outpatients undergoing chemotherapy and/or radiotherapy treatment – some from as far afield as the Scottish Borders, North Yorkshire and West Cumbria. The charity was recommended to the Outreach Committee by a member of the congregation who benefitted from it himself, and the choice was endorsed by the PCC. Their service involves collecting and transporting patients in a safe and comfortable environment from where they are living to where they will be having their treatment. If required, a volunteer companion will stay with the patient during their Chemotherapy and / or Radiotherapy.

The charity completes some 60,000 cancer patient journeys each year with a team of over 400 volunteers and a fleet of some 40+ ambulances. All donations received go directly to supporting cancer patients on their journey to recovery with Daft as a Brush Cancer Patient Care.

Our congregation donated £1454 which, combined with a potential further £363.50 recoverable from Gift Aid, amounted to a total of £ 2021.50p. To show their appreciation, Daft as a Brush arranged for one of their volunteers to drive, in his ambulance, to Durham and meet with us after our eleven o'clock Sunday service where a giant 'cheque' was handed over in the Institute (see our Parish Magazine).

### Lent and Easter 2024

Following a recommendation from a member of our congregation, the Outreach Committee looked at several charities helping victims of violence in for Gaza. We decided that the most appropriate was *Medical Aid for Palestinians*. This is a British charity that works directly with local partners providing medical services in Gaza, the West Bank and Lebanon and ensures that 89% of the donations it receives are spent directly on providing shelter, food and medical aid to displaced families. The PCC has endorsed our recommendation. The appeal opened on Ash Wednesday (14<sup>th</sup> February) and closed on the Sunday after Easter (7<sup>th</sup> April). Despite the continuing terrible loss of during that period, we received updates from MAP assuring us that they were continuing to deliver aid to Gaza. Our congregation donated £1,795 to the appeal, of which £1,385 was gift aided, meaning that MAP can reclaim a further £346, giving a potential contribution of £ 2141 to *Medical aid for Palestinians*.

The appeal closed a week ago (on the Sunday after Easter) and I shall be posting our donations to MAP shortly.

Bob Layton, Chair of the Outreach Committee.



**ST OSWALD'S CHRISTIAN AID COLLECTION 2023: £3,384**

\*\*\*\*\*

**ST OSWALD'S OUTREACH CAMPAIGNS, 2023:**

**St Margaret's Centre, Durham:** £1,317.50 raised, inclusive of gift aid, and paid to the St Margaret's Centre in January 2023.

**DEC Ukraine:** £2,050 raised, inclusive of gift aid, and paid to the DEC Ukraine appeal in June 2023.

And please see the next sheet for a more detailed report of the Advent and Christmas 2023 appeal...



2023 was another excellent year musically for us; the choir continued its post-COVID resurgence, contributing a varied and lively programme of music to our worship at St Oswald's. Aside from our regular pattern of services, there were a number of special occasions – too many to mention all of them, but I will highlight a few of the more unique ones!

One of the most musically significant occasions of 2023 was the coronation of King Charles III on May 6<sup>th</sup> in Westminster Abbey. I was very pleased that we were able to mark the occasion the following day with a special Evensong at St Oswald's, featuring Handel's *Zadok the Priest* as the anthem and Walton's *Crown Imperial* as the organ voluntary. We celebrated RSCM Music Sunday in June with a Come & Sing Choral Evensong; and at the morning Eucharist, we enjoyed a performance of a movement from Vivaldi's *Gloria – Domine Deus, Rex coelestis* – a duet between soprano and oboe, sang and played respectively by choral scholars Lilyella and Leo. This was reprised later in the year for a service marking the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ordination of our own Revd Alan Middleton, who requested this alongside Purcell's setting of *Rejoice in the Lord always*.

We appointed our new cohort of choral and organ scholars in October; Lilyella carried on as soprano from the 2022-3 academic year, and was joined by Bekah, Sophie, Alex, Charlie, and Tiger. This year has been the most varied group in terms of their stage of education; Tiger is on a gap year between Sixth Form and university, and Bekah is currently a PGCE student. However, the group has been very cohesive both in itself and in relation to the choir as a whole, and delivered a memorable concert on the Friday evening of Lumiere weekend in November.

The provision of the scholarships has helped us in many ways beyond the obvious. It makes recruitment easier, as less experienced singers can come into a group with a solid sound around them. With a larger group of experienced and confident sight-readers, we are able to spend less time just learning the notes and more time talking about vocal technique and sound production; this enhances the choir's sound even outside term-time when the scholars are absent. The better network of singers affiliated with both St Oswald's and the University has also made it easier to arrange for extras on special occasions, again including those outside term-time such as the Carol Service. The posts are still very new, and we're still learning how they are likely to operate year-on-year; in many ways I expect every year to be different. But we have seen consistent benefits to our worship at St Oswald's since we introduced the new scheme in 2021, and those who have been in the posts have all remarked on the welcome they felt at St Oswald's and how much they appreciated the opportunities it offered them. Many thanks to you all for your support of this and the whole musical programme of our church.

*David Harris, Director of Music*

### **Deanery Synod Report**

June- Libby Wilkinson, the archdeacon, talked about the work of the Mission and Ministry team. The Deanery plan updates- all of the parish groups are up and running and legal procedures completed. Welcomed John Fisher, Will Foulger, Philip Plyming to the Deanery. Vacancies still at Belmont and Pitlington and now in the Ferryhill group after Gary's departure

September- we had a meeting where we reviewed where we are and looked at the Deanery as it is, using some tools to look at population, levels of deprivation, key issues. Reps then talked about what work was happening in their parishes

Alison Blackburn was elected as Lay Chair.

February- we cancelled as there was nothing on the agenda

March- a planned pilgrimage to the Cathedral was also cancelled.

