

# Hope Family Church

Brancepeth Road, Oxclose, Washington NE38 0LA

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year ended  
31st of December 2023

The Parish of Oxclose, Oxclose Church AKA Hope Family Church.

Charity Number 1201922.

Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council for year ended 31 December 2023.

## **Aims and Purposes.**

Oxclose Church Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend Gavin Rushton, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the Church Centre complex of Oxclose Church, Brancepeth Road, Washington.

## **Objectives and Activities**

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community at Oxclose Church. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament. When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel; and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.
- Missionary and outreach work.

To facilitate this work it is important that we maintain the fabric of the building of Oxclose Church and the Church Centre Complex.

## **Achievement and Performance.**

### **Worship and Prayer**

The PCC is keen to offer a range of services during the week and over the course of the year that our community find both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling. For example, regular small groups provide a

quiet, intimate, and reflective environment for worship, discipleship and encouragement, whilst opportunities are provided for people to engage in more outgoing worship such as that provided by our café style services within our parish.

This year we have been successful in welcoming more families into our church and have agreed a new style of Family Worship at 11am and launched a new teaching service at 9am. This has resulted in significant growth, but also a degree of flexibility from the established congregation as we have changed the setting and structure of our services. It is pleasing to be able to report that the new arrangements have been well received since they came into operation during March. In addition, a great deal of time and thought was spent during the year on making best use of the new services. Many have said how much easier it is to engage with the services and the atmosphere is much more welcoming enabling a natural engagement with visitors. At present there are 53 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll, 17 of whom are not resident within the parish. 5 names were added during the year and 7 were removed either through death or because they moved away from the parish. The average weekly attendance, counted during October, was 74, but this number increased at festivals and two Christmas carol services had to be held to seat all those who wished to attend.

As well as our regular services, we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. Through baptism we thank God for the gift of life, in marriage public vows are exchanged with God's blessing and through funeral services friends and family express their grief and give thanks for the life which is now complete in this world and to commend the person into God's keeping. We have celebrated 10 baptisms and 1 wedding and held 4 funerals in our church this year.

In August 2023, in agreement with the Bishop of Durham and in line with our aims and objectives, it was decided that Hope Family Church would plant a new congregation into Christ Church New Seaham in early 2024.

### **Deanery Synod**

Two members of the PCC sit on the deanery synod. This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the church.

### **The Church Centre Complex**

We want our church to be open to our community as much as possible and this found its fulfilment in the launch of the Ark Play Café and the establishment of Hope Family Church as a community hub/warm space. The café is run in partnership between staff and volunteers from the church and wider community. After many years, during which routine maintenance has been carried out, we finally got the roof fixed and no new leaks have been discovered since the repair was carried out. We have continued to work our way through the quinquennial report recommendations for repairs from 2020 and a plan is in place for these repairs to be completed by the end of 2025.

The church kitchen is now in use every day, we contacted the Food Standards Agency to register the premises and awarded a 5-star rating. We now regularly have an average of 25 families using the café each day the café is open. Also during the week, we host our toddlers group on Monday and Thursday. Thirty-five children and their carers have been regular attenders at the toddler group. Towards the end of the year, we were able to launch a new Ukrainian Drop in, supporting those effected by the war in Ukraine, together with opening as a Warm Space/Community Hub has meant that we have developed closer ties with Sunderland City Council, engaged more community volunteers and have supported over 200 people who have struggled due to the cost of living crisis.

#### **Pastoral Care.**

Pastoral Care is offered through our small group structure where people are encouraged to care for one another, offer prayer, and cultivate a mutually supportive structure.

#### **Mission and Evangelism.**

Helping those in need is a demonstration of our faith and encourages people to examine the goodness of God. We continue to support 3 mission agencies as well as being able to raise £136 for the Children's Society at our Christmas events.

The Ten10 Buys project continued to connect with young people in the area and wider diocese throughout 2023, Mr Kevin McLeron was appointed as our Bus Driver and alongside the vicar and other staff members helps to oversee the project. The team of volunteers continues to run the project ensuring a continuity for the young people who engage with the project.

#### **Ecumenical Relationships.**

The church is a member of Sunderland Connect and of the New Wine Network. We continue to serve other churches and their leaders through hosting leadership gatherings and worship nights that attract people from other churches across the region.

#### **Financial Review.**

Total receipts on unrestricted funds were £112,661 of which £19,197 was unrestricted voluntary donations, the rest came from grant income, café income and hiring the building. Details of this can be found in the Financial Statements.

The planned giving increased again this was very encouraging and is a clear demonstration that people have really caught the vision of the Church and are invested into the long-term health and growth.

The contribution to the diocesan parish share increased to £12547 in the year, this is significantly lower than the desired amount through the guided pledge scheme, however we have a clear plan and scheme to meet this commitment in the coming years. The sum that the churches in the deanery have to find is shared between the churches according to a formula that is based mainly on a head count of the congregations, and factoring in the demographics of the area a church serves.

The net result for the year was a deficit of of receipts over payments of £2975 on unrestricted funds. This was largely down to the increase in utilities due to unrestricted cost increases faced by all charities, this was somewhat mitigated by some renegotiations of our contracts, however we did not escape unscathed. Adding bank and deposit balances brought forward at the beginning of the year, the balances carried forward at 31st December on unrestricted funds totalled £15,215.

### **Reserves policy.**

Historically there has been no reserves policy in for Oxclose Church, however the PCC has committed to work towards establishing maintaining a balance on unrestricted funds which equates to at least three months unrestricted payments, at present this is only met due to the level of successful grant applications. This is equivalent to £20,962. It is held to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet emergencies. The cash balance of £11,547 held on unrestricted funds at the year end, together with the amounts payable to and by the PCC, was just over three quarters of the way towards this target. It is the PCC's hope to increase this over time, and as we grow become less dependent on grant awards to subsidise giving.

The balance of £11,422 in the restricted fund is retained towards meeting the cost of the bus project. We currently have £5,485 invested in the CCLA Church of England Deposit Fund, we currently have no plans to deposit more into CCLA, however this may change in the future.

### **Volunteers.**

We would like to thank all the volunteers who work so hard to make our church the lively and vibrant community it is. We want to mention our churchwardens Dr David Walton, Mrs Judith Wood and Dr David Walton continued to serve as treasurer.

### **Structure, Governance and Management.**

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At Hope Family Church (Oxclose Church) the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent (our vicar), churchwardens, the curate and staff, and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church.

All those who attend our services / members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC. The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. New members receive initial training into the workings of the PCC. The full PCC met six times during the year with an average level of attendance of 90%.

### **Administrative information.**

Hope Family Church (Oxclose Church) is situated in Oxclose, Washington, Tyne and Wear. It is part of the Diocese of Durham, within the Church of England. The correspondence address is Hope Family Church, Brancepeth Road, Oxclose, Washington, NE38 0LA.

The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and a registered charity whose charity number is 1201922.

PCC members who have served at any time from 1st January 2022 until the date this report was approved are:

Ex Officio members:

- Incumbent: The Reverend Gavin Rushton (Chairman)

- Curate: Reverend Anita Burke.
- Wardens: Mrs Judith Wood and Dr David Walton
- Staff Member Dr Robert Cooper

Elected members:

- Mr John Killick representative on Deanery Synod
- Mrs Margaret Swan Secretary (Acting).
- Mrs Judith Wood.
- Mr Kevin McLernon. (Vice Chair)
- Mrs Donna Brown.
- Mrs Sheila Walton.
- Mr Andrew Dodge

Approved by the PCC on 22nd May 2024 and signed on their behalf by the Reverend Gavin Rushton (PCC chairperson).

## **Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Oxclose Church**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Oxclose Church (the Trust) for the year ended 31 December 2023.

### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

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

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

### **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 Trust 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: David Young ACA

Address: 6 Glenburn Close, Washington, NE38 8PE

Date:

# Hope Family Church

Brancepeth Road, Oxclose, Washington, NE38 0LA

## Receipts and payments accounts for the year ended 31st of December 2023

### RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2023	Restricted Funds 2023	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
<b>RECEIPTS</b>					
Voluntary income	2(a)	80,951	8,794	89,745	93,420
Activities for generating funds	2(b)	20,282	500	20,782	19,258
Investments	2(c)	174	0	174	71
Church activities	2(d)	1,960	0	1,960	6,615
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>		<b>103,367</b>	<b>9,294</b>	<b>112,661</b>	<b>119,364</b>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>					
Raising funds	3(a)	-1,422	0	-1,422	-1,200
Church activities	3(b)	-100,667	-13,547	-114,214	-108,474
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>		<b>-102,089</b>	<b>-13,547</b>	<b>-115,636</b>	<b>-109,674</b>
<b>NET OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS</b>		<b>1,278</b>	<b>-4,253</b>	<b>-2,975</b>	<b>9,690</b>
<b>TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS</b>		<b>-8,109</b>	<b>8,109</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>CASH FUNDS LAST YEAR END</b>		<b>22,046</b>	<b>7,691</b>	<b>29,737</b>	<b>20,047</b>
<b>CASH FUNDS THIS YEAR END</b>		<b>15,215</b>	<b>11,547</b>	<b>26,762</b>	<b>29,737</b>



# Hope Family Church

Brancepeth Road, Oxclose, Washington, NE38 0LA

## Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period 31st of December 2023

	Notes	Total Funds	Total Funds
		2023	2022
CASH FUNDS	5	<u>26,762</u>	<u>29,737</u>
<b>PARISH FUNDS</b>			
Unrestricted		15,215	22,046
Restricted		<u>11,547</u>	<u>7,691</u>
		<u>26,762</u>	<u>29,737</u>

Approved by the trustees and signed on its behalf by:

Revd Gavin Rushton - Vicar

Date:

The notes on pages      to      form part of these accounts.

# Oxclose Church

## Annual report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2022

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### 1. Accounting policies

##### Basis of preparation

Oxclose Church is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS102. The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 governing the individual accounts of PCC's, and with the Regulations 'true and fair view' provisions. They have been prepared under FRS102 (2016) as the applicable accounting standards and the 2016 version of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP(FRS102))

##### Funds

General funds represent the funds of Oxclose Church that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the Church. Restricted funds are those funds that must be spent on restricted purposes.

#### 2. Receipts

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2023	Restricted Funds 2023	Total Funds 2023
<b>RECEIPTS</b>				
<b>2(a)</b>	<b>Voluntary income</b>			
	Charitable donations	986		986
	Grants	9,581		9,581
	MEV income		5,995	5,995
	Mission Resource payments received	4,628		4,628
	Offering tray	2,031		2,031
	Regular giving	17,166		17,166
	Salary grant	46,559	2,799	49,358
		<u>80,951</u>	<u>8,794</u>	<u>89,745</u>
<b>2(b)</b>	<b>Activities for generating funds</b>			
	Bus income	53		53
	Café and Messy Church income	20,085		20,085
	Event tickets			0
	Other income	144	500	644
		<u>20,282</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>20,782</u>
<b>2(c)</b>	<b>Investments</b>			
	Interest received	174		174
		<u>174</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>174</u>
<b>2(d)</b>	<b>Church activities</b>			
	Occasional offices	0		0
	Toddlers and room hire	1,960		1,960
		<u>1,960</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,960</u>
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>		<u><b>103,367</b></u>	<u><b>9,294</b></u>	<u><b>112,661</b></u>

### 3. Payments

		Unrestricted Funds 2023	Restricted Funds 2023	Total Funds 2023
Notes				
<b>PAYMENTS</b>				
<b>3(a)</b>	<b>Raising funds</b>			
	Christians against poverty	-1,422		-1,422
		-1,422	0	-1,422
<b>3(b)</b>	<b>Church activities</b>			
	Advertising and marketing	-1,261		-1,261
	Accountancy fees	-747		-747
	Building repairs	-5,408		-5,408
	Bus expenses	-5,897	-2,616	-8,513
	Café expenses	-14,237		-14,237
	Cleaning	-1,069		-1,069
	Direct expenses	-8,945		-8,945
	Wages	-30,155		-30,155
	General expenses	-870		-870
	Hospitality in house	-422		-422
	Insurance	-1,191		-1,191
	IT costs	-254	-240	-494
	Light, heat, & power	-6,657		-6,657
	MEV expense		-6,550	-6,550
	Mission resources	-4,719		-4,719
	Office equipment	-91	-2,610	-2,701
	Parish pledge	-12,547		-12,547
	Pension costs	-1,389		-1,389
	Postage	-43		-43
	Printing & stationery	-1,202		-1,202
	Staff training	-1,302	-1,531	-2,833
	Subscriptions	-412		-412
	Telephone & internet	-1,238		-1,238
	Water	-611		-611
		-100,667	-13,547	-114,214
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>		<b>-102,089</b>	<b>-13,547</b>	<b>-115,636</b>

### 4. Average number of employees

The average number employed in the year was 3.

### 5. Cash at bank

	Unrestricted Funds 2023	Restricted Funds 2023	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
Santander current accounts	9,730	11,422	21,152	24,301
CCLA Church of England deposit accounts	5,485	125	5,610	5,436
	15,215	11,547	26,762	29,737