

Hope Family Church  
The Parish of Oxclose, Oxclose Church  
Brancepeth Road, Oxclose, Washington NE38 0LA

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year ended  
31st of December 2024

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 2024.

### **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. 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 30 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll, 15 of whom are not resident within the parish. Eight names were added during the year and 17 were removed either through death, because they moved away from the parish, planting into Seaham, or disagreement with theology of Church of England. The average weekly attendance, counted during October, was 39.

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 4 baptisms and 0 wedding and held 0 funerals in our church this year.

### **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 cafe is run in partnership between staff and volunteers from the church and wider community. We have continued to work our way through the quinquennial report recommendations for repairs from 2020 and a new quinquennial report will be carried out in 2025

The church kitchen is in use every day, we continued to be awarded 5 Stars by the Food Standards Agency. We now regularly have an average of 38 families using the café each day the café is open.

Also during the week, we host our toddlers group on Monday and Thursday. Twenty-seven children and their carers have been regular attenders at the toddler group.

### **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.

We partner with the UK-USA Mission and host teams of High School Students from Tennessee, and a group of college-age students for an eight-week stint, both of which have helped us increase our engagement with young people, particularly through our schools ministry.

The Ten10 Buys project continued to connect with young people in the area and wider diocese throughout 2024. This has established a consistent and holistic approach of engaging with young people. We've been able to run a number of projects that have branched off of the bus project, like Youth Alpha and Ten10 Stayback where young people have been able to explore issues of faith in greater depth.

### **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 £124,033 of which £16,108 was unrestricted voluntary donations, and a further £107,925 was from grant income, café income and hiring the building. Details of this can be found in the Financial Statements.

The planned giving decreased by 23% this was discouraging and is a clear demonstration of dissatisfaction with the national church, although some of this can be mitigated by financial giving being transplanted to the New Church Plant.

The contribution to the diocesan parish share increased to £10,001 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 an excess of receipts over payments of £6134 on unrestricted funds. Adding bank and deposit balances brought forward at the beginning of the year, the balances carried forward at 31st December on unrestricted funds totalled £32896.

#### **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 £15,044 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 £17853 in the restricted fund is retained towards meeting the cost of the bus project and grant funding in place for a new kitchen for the Ark Cafe. We currently have £5,908 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 churchwarden Mrs Grace Sydeny, and Mrs Judith Wood who work hard to support the ministry of Hope Family Church

#### **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 2024 until the date this report was approved are:

Ex Officio members:

- Incumbent: The Reverend Gavin Rushton (Chairman)
- Curate: Reverend Anita Burke.
- Wardens: Grace Sydney, Judith Wood
- Staff Member Dr Robert Cooper
- Staff Member Mrs Holly Mason

Elected members:

- Mr Andrew Dodge

- Mrs Margaret Swan Secretary (Acting).
- Mrs Judith Wood.
- Mr Kevin McLernon.
- Mrs Lynda Partington
- Mrs Sheila Walton.

Approved by the PCC on 18<sup>th</sup> April 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 2024.

## **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 2024

### RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2024	Restricted Funds 2024	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
<b>RECEIPTS</b>					
Voluntary income	2(a)	97,515	11,827	109,342	89,745
Activities for generating funds	2(b)	16,108	0	16,108	20,782
Investments	2(c)	298	0	298	174
Church activities	2(d)	10,112	0	10,112	1,960
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>		<b>124,033</b>	<b>11,827</b>	<b>135,860</b>	<b>112,661</b>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>					
Raising funds	3(a)	-300	0	-300	-1,422
Church activities	3(b)	-125,108	-4,318	-129,426	-114,214
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>		<b>-125,408</b>	<b>-4,318</b>	<b>-129,726</b>	<b>-115,636</b>
<b>NET OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS</b>		<b>-1,375</b>	<b>7,509</b>	<b>6,134</b>	<b>-2,975</b>
<b>TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS</b>		<b>1,204</b>	<b>-1,204</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>CASH FUNDS LAST YEAR END</b>		<b>15,215</b>	<b>11,547</b>	<b>26,762</b>	<b>29,737</b>
<b>CASH FUNDS THIS YEAR END</b>		<b>15,044</b>	<b>17,852</b>	<b>32,896</b>	<b>26,762</b>

# Hope Family Church

Brancepeth Road, Oxclose, Washington, NE38 0LA

## Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period 31st of December 2024

	Notes	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
CASH FUNDS	5	<u>32,896</u>	<u>26,762</u>
<b>PARISH FUNDS</b>			
Unrestricted		15,044	15,215
Restricted		<u>17,852</u>	<u>11,547</u>
		<u>32,896</u>	<u>26,762</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 2024

### 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 2024	Restricted Funds 2024	Total Funds 2024
<b>RECEIPTS</b>					
<b>2(a)</b>	<b>Voluntary income</b>				
	Charitable donations				0
	Benefact trust			1,700	1,700
	UK/US mission			7,727	7,727
	Ten 2 hosting payment			2,400	2,400
	Christians against poverty		1,325		1,325
	Grants		0		0
	Gifts		2,000		2,000
	MEV income			0	0
	Mission Resource payments received		20		20
	Offering tray		616		616
	Regular giving		22,147		22,147
	Salary grant		71,407	0	71,407
			<u>97,515</u>	<u>11,827</u>	<u>109,342</u>
<b>2(b)</b>	<b>Activities for generating funds</b>				
	Bus income		1,818		1,818
	Café and Messy Church income		14,117		14,117
	Event tickets				0
	Other income		173		173
			<u>16,108</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>16,108</u>
<b>2(c)</b>	<b>Investments</b>				
	Interest received		298		298
			<u>298</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>298</u>
<b>2(d)</b>	<b>Church activities</b>				
	Occasional offices		467		467
	Toddlers and room hire		9,645		9,645
			<u>10,112</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>10,112</u>
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>			<u><b>124,033</b></u>	<u><b>11,827</b></u>	<u><b>135,860</b></u>

### 3. Payments

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds
Notes		2024	2024	2024
PAYMENTS				
3(a)	Raising funds			
	Christians against poverty	-300		-300
		-300	0	-300
3(b)	Church activities			
	Advertising and marketing	-395		-395
	Accountancy fees	-1,019		-1,019
	Building repairs	-3,120		-3,120
	Bus expenses	-8,598	-3,113	-11,711
	Café expenses	-11,303		-11,303
	Charitable donations paid out	-1,120		-1,120
	Christ Church Seaham	-5,513		-5,513
	Cleaning	-1,036		-1,036
	Direct expenses	-4,228		-4,228
	Wages	-46,067		-46,067
	General expenses	-3,043		-3,043
	Hospitality in house	-40		-40
	Insurance	-1,292		-1,292
	Interns spend		-1,205	-1,205
	IT costs	-1,172	0	-1,172
	Light, heat, & power	-8,670		-8,670
	MEV expense	-5,676	0	-5,676
	Mission resources	-3,801		-3,801
	Office equipment	-409	0	-409
	Parish pledge	-10,001		-10,001
	Pension costs	-1,753		-1,753
	Postage	-13		-13
	Printing & stationery	-2,146		-2,146
	Staff training	-1,563	0	-1,563
	Subscriptions	-1,057		-1,057
	Telephone & internet	-1,085		-1,085
	Water	-988		-988
		-125,108	-4,318	-129,426
TOTAL PAYMENTS		-125,408	-4,318	-129,726

### 4. Average number of employees

The average number employed in the year was 3.

### 5. Cash at bank

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
	2024	2024	2024	2023
Santander current accounts	9,267	17,721	26,988	21,152
CCLA Church of England deposit accounts	5,777	131	5,908	5,610
	15,044	17,852	32,896	26,762