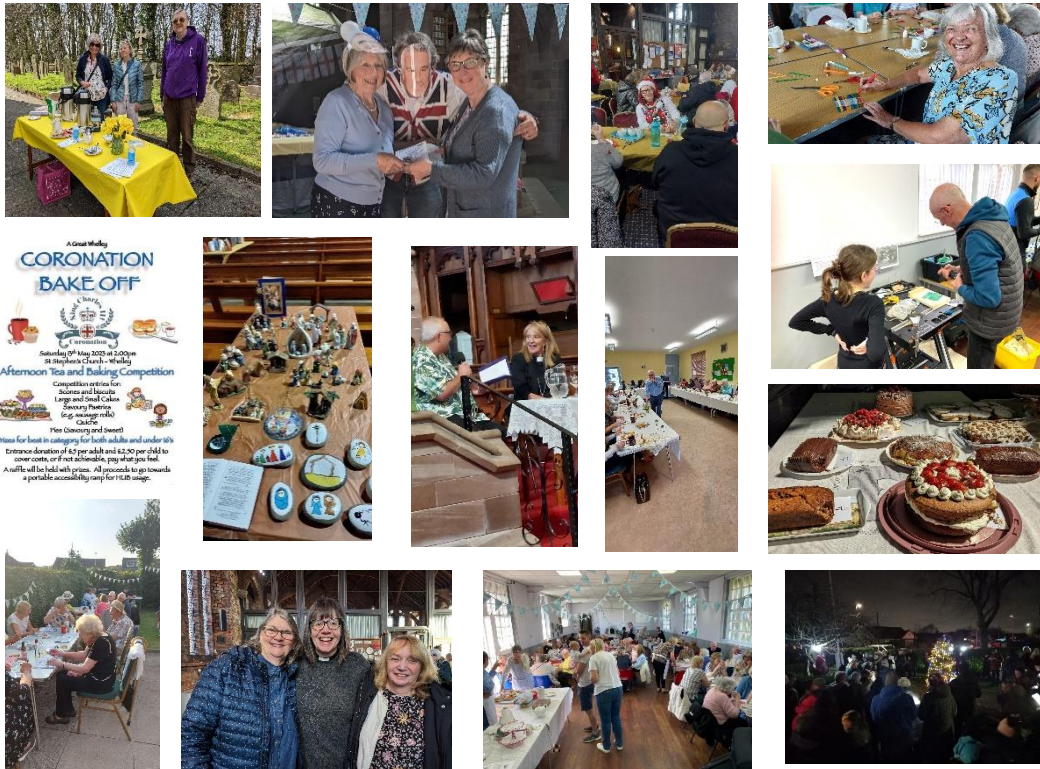


# Annual Report and Financial Statements Parochial Church Council of Wigan North East for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Charity Number 1201984



North East Hub  
Church  
**WIGAN**

**Annual Report and Financial Statements of the  
Parochial Church  
Council of Wigan North East,  
for the year ended 31 December 2023.**

**Aims and Purposes**

Wigan North East Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the Incumbent of the Wigan benefice, in promoting in the ecclesiastical Parish, the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also responsible for the maintenance of the church buildings of St David's, Haigh; St Elizabeth's, Aspull; St John's, New Springs; and St Stephen's, Whelley, together with the 3 associated church halls.

When planning our activities for the year, the PCC considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and in particular the specific guidance to charities concerned with the advancement of religion.

The PCC is committed to promoting the Christian way of life through regular worship, prayer, nurture, outreach, charity and social activities; to build and maintain strong links with our three Church of England Primary Schools; and to provide spiritual, emotional and physical support to our community, especially at times of celebration, need or sorrow.

**Achievement and Performance**

In 1 Thess 5v16-18, St Paul urges the believers to, "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

It is with this call to thankfulness to God that we reflect on 2023; rejoicing in the growth of God's Kingdom here, and in his continued faithfulness to us.

Our established pattern of Sunday morning worship across the hub has continued throughout the year, providing a source of joy and spiritual nourishment to our established congregations. Our three Journey Groups have continued to meet fortnightly, providing community and discipleship for their members.

Alongside this we also give thanks for the ongoing development of our all-age services at St Elizabeth's and St Stephen's and the continued growth of newer worshipping communities and the formation of others.

The community of 3Ts has continued to meet and grow throughout the year with an average of 30-40 people now attending each month.

Emerging out of JEDS pantry and the warm space a small worshipping community has begun to meet over this year.

Another cause for celebration is the re-starting of Messy Church with a team from across the Hub, meeting every other month; here families old and young worship, be creative and eat together.

All this growth in the fresh worshipping communities has been made possible through committed and faithful people seeking to first listen to God and then to be willing to serve him either in practical ways or in committing to pray for each of these communities and for whom we are extremely thankful.

Throughout this year there has been a continued commitment to engaging in mission of God; that is showing and telling the Good News of Jesus in our communities. JEDS Pantry and the associated

warm/welcome space has continued throughout the year and has seen in a growth in its use and an increasing feel of belonging to a community for the many people who are coming each week.

There has been further strengthening of the links between the pantry and all the schools within the parish and this has enabled the provision of support to those in greatest need when it has been most needed. A huge Thank You again to Angie at the White Lion and Railway for her continued support this year and especially to the highly committed team of JEDS pantry volunteers.

Other areas of mission to the community have included several Churchyard Cafes at both St David's and St Elizabeth's, especially at key times of the year such as Christmas, Easter and Mothering Sunday. These cafes have created a welcome opportunity for churchyard visitors to get a hot drink, to light a candle, a time to chat or a time of quiet to sit and reflect.

At Christmas, alongside our usual Christmas services many joined with the local communities and councillors in singing carols around the Christmas trees at New Springs, Aspull, and, for the first time, at Whelley in the grounds of St Stephen's, organised by local resident Cat Croston. St John's held a Nativity Festival, it was particularly great to see the contributions from our church schools and people from many in our local communities.

As part of Aspull Churches Together members of St David's and St Elizabeth's also hosted a Nativity Trail based out of Aspull library where refreshments were served, and craft activities provided for children.

We can rejoice that through both fresh worshipping communities and the regular missional activities each month we are connecting with somewhere approaching 200 people from beyond our Sunday congregations, quite apart from one-off and seasonal events; these are all people who would otherwise have little or no contact with church.

This year has also seen continued social and other community events. There have been regular quizzes, bingo, and other social activities in our church halls and buildings. Other notable events this year have included Haigh and Aspull Walking Day, the now famous Aspull Worming Charming Championships, and community BBQ's. In celebration of the crowning of King Charles III, St Stephen's also hosted the "Great Whelley Coronation Bake Off" which was judged by our very own Mary Berry and Paul Hollywood lookalikes!

We are hugely thankful to all those across the hub who have again given tirelessly of the time and talents to enable all of this (and a whole lot more) to happen. Particular thanks must go David Garrington, for his work as churchwarden, to Margeret Bishop, our treasurer, Julie Oldham, our PCC secretary to all those who serve in our Local Missional Leadership Teams. Sincere thanks must also go to Brian Delap who made the decision to stand down as Churchwarden in July; Brian had served faithfully as Churchwarden and deputy PCC chair since the formation of the parish of Wigan North East in 2020, and before that as churchwarden and deputy PCC chair at St David's.

Throughout this year we have continued with the Right Buildings Process which began in late 2022. It must be recognised that this has been a very difficult, challenging, and painful process for many but most especially the Worshipping Community at St John's whose building was recommended for "Release", and the community of St David's whose building was recommended for a further review. The Right Building process will continue into 2024 and, whilst we don't necessarily give thanks for the challenging situation we are in, nevertheless we can and must give thanks for the faithfulness of God: our faithful God who, we trust, will continue to lead us, guide us, and support us by his Spirit as we continue this necessary but difficult process.

At the end of the year, as well as our Christmas celebrations it was also a time for goodbyes as it was announced that, after just over three years as curate, Rev Sandra Jones would be leaving us to take up the role of Hub Leader in the South Hub of Church Wigan. Sandra has been a huge blessing to so many throughout her time here and although sad that she is leaving us, it is again with joy and thankfulness to God that we acknowledge His call for her to continue to serve Him here in Wigan.

## **Financial Review**

Once again, we are thankful to those who have contributed towards the management of our Hub finances, particularly to Margaret Bishop as PCC Treasurer. She has continued to be assisted and supported by Elizabeth Hayward, Janet Dickinson, David Garrington, David Ryding, Richard Fisher and Susan Whittle.

The following gives a narrative summary to the accompanying, independently examined, accounts. Figures are generally rounded to nearest £500 for clarity.

1. Overall Income in 2023 was £124,000, up from £109,000 in 2022, an increase of approx. 15,000.
2. Notable details:
  - a. £700 increase in Giving (Planned, PGS, envelopes, collections, donations, GiftAid tax recovered)
  - b. £5,700 winter heating grant from the National Church, for 2022, but received in 2023.
  - c. Fundraising as 2022, at £9,500
  - d. Wedding and Funeral fees up £4,000, from £17,500 to £21,500
  - e. Hall lettings also up £4,000, from £11,500 to £15,500
  - f. JEDS pantry contributions towards utilities up from £1,700 to £2,500, and are being reviewed further for 2024.
3. Overall Payments, from all Funds, were £104,000 in 2023, down from £130,000 in 2022, a decrease of £16,000.
4. Within this, Parish Share (inc Wigan Deanery Trust contributions) payments were £53,000 in 2023, down from £86,000 in 2022.
  - a. Complexities of cash flow and managing multiple bank accounts led to us paying more Parish Share than we could afford in 2022.
  - b. This resulted in us ending 2022 with our General Fund in £12,000 deficit. (We were not overdrawn at the bank because the Designated Fund was £61,000 in surplus.)
  - c. During 2023 this deficit was corrected, leaving the General Fund at £3,500 surplus at the end of 2023 (but with less than £1,000 of this held in the Current Account).
5. Other Payments were £51,000 in 2023, up from £44,000 in 2022.
  - a. Of this £51,000, £44,000 was from General Funds, £5,000 from Designated, £2,000 from Restricted.

- b. Utility and insurance costs (inc. clergy housing) increased £6,500 (though some of St David's Hall heating costs were 2022 arrears).
- c. Routine church maintenance increased £1,000.
- d. £700 of the increased Admin costs is largely due to bank charges (we are charged each time we pay cash into the account) These charges started mid-year 2022 as the first year of banking was free. Other costs were hub and admin phone rental and increased paper/ink usage.

#### 6. Other notes

- a. Hall lettings go to Designated St David's and St Elizabeth's Funds, but to General for St John's and St Stephen's.
- b. Clergy Expenses includes housing costs (water rates & council tax), which are now being paid by the Deanery, then reimbursed by us.
- c. Upkeep of Services on p1 of the accounts includes Readers Fees (shown itemised on p3)
- d. Upkeep of Services is paid from general hub funds (except capital purchases – see above).
- e. St Elizabeth's and St Stephen's pay to CCLI and PRS which cover the playing and projection of more modern worship songs used in all age worship, they also cover a limited public event performances (see Admin and Governance).

As trustees the PCC are aware of our financial responsibilities and we continually review the levels of controllable expenditure, making savings wherever possible.

#### **Risk Assessment.**

The PCC recognises that in relation to 'Risk Assessment', risk is defined as 'the threat of any action or event which will adversely affect an organisation's ability to achieve its objectives and execute its strategies'. It also accepts that the term 'risk' can include any circumstances that may, or do, have an adverse effect, and is wider than financial matters. 'Risks' relate not only to the negative consequences of a threat, but also to the impact of not taking advantage of opportunities. The PCC recognises it requires a practical Health and Safety Policy covering activities for both the churches and their surrounding grounds.

The contents and obligations of the Equality Act 2010 and the General Data Protection Regulation 2018 are known and complied with to the best of the PCC's ability. The PCC is aware of its responsibilities in respect of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 in its requirement to carry out a fire assessment to identify any possible dangers and risks, to take action to minimise the risks and to create a plan to deal with any emergencies, and also to write up and keep a record of its findings and to review its assessment annually. The PCC has appointed the Churchwardens to be the responsible persons to put these things into operation.

#### **Safeguarding**

There is a Safeguarding Policy in place in respect of children and vulnerable adults. DBS Checks have been and are made for those dealing regularly with young people and vulnerable adults. The Parish Safeguarding Officer is Sally Oyeyele, with Revd. Sandra Jones acting as PCC Rep and working closely

with the PSO. There is also a Safeguarding contact for each congregation/building, who work with the PSO. Those new to PCC have each undertaken safeguarding training.

Whilst it is impossible to eliminate all risks and their consequences, efforts are constantly made to minimise such occurrences. The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 to have due regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

### **Structure, governance and management:**

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The Standing Committee of the PCC is the only committee required by church law and has the power to transact the business of the PCC between meetings, subject to ratification by the PCC. Its members are the Team Vicars, the two Churchwardens, Treasurer, Secretary and one lay PCC member.

### **PCC members.**

#### Clergy:

Team Rector: Revd. Neil Cook

Team Vicars: Revd. Stephen Beck, Revd. Frances Shoesmith

The other Team Vicars of the Wigan Benefice are/were also members of the PCC during 2023:, Revd Sue Fulford, Revd Dot Gosling, Revd Stan Higginson, Revd Will Gibbons (resigned Jan 2023) Revd Canon Sam Nicholson, Revd Rachel Sheehan (resigned October 2023), Revd Jeremy Thomas, Revd Mark Wade, Revd Elliot Ireton, Revd Fran Humphry, Revd Catherine Coslett.

#### Lay Members:

Churchwardens (ex-officio PCC members):

Mr Brian Delap (Lay Vice Chair) – (resigned July 2023) *(Vacancy)*

Mr David Garrington

Representatives on the Deanery Synod (terms end APCM 2026):

Mr Keith Lang (subsequently resigned March 2024) *(Vacancy)*

Mr Peter Walker

Mrs Barbara Holden

Mr Mike Knight

*Vacancy*

Elected lay members:

Mrs Margaret Bishop (PCC Treasurer) – term ends APCM 2024, *(Post up for election)*

Mrs Janet Dickinson-term ends APCM 2024 *(Post up for election)*

Mrs Julie Oldham (PCC Secretary) – term ends APCM 2024 *(Post up for election)*

Mr Vince McCarthy - term ends APCM 2025

Mrs Susan Whittle – term ends APCM 2025

Mr Eric Grindrod – term ends APCM 2025 (resigned Nov 2023) *(Post up for election)*

Mrs Joan Garrington – term ends APCM 2025,

Mrs Helen Hollis – term ends APCM 2026,

Joanne McClennon – term ends APCM 2026

Mrs Elaine Grindrod – term ends APCM 2026 (resigned Nov 2023) *(Post up for election)*

Mrs Nicola Cosens – terms ends APCM 2026

*Vacancy – term ends 2024 (Post up for election)*

Co-opted members (until APCM):

Revd Sandra Jones (Assistant Curate) *(subsequently moved to new post Jan 2024)*

The Standing Committee of the PCC during 2023 was:

Mr Brian Delap (resigned July 2023), Mr David Garrington, Mrs Julie Oldham, Mrs Janet Dickinson, Mrs Margaret Bishop, Rev Stephen Beck, Rev Frances Shoesmith.

## Electoral Roll

As of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023, the parish electoral role consisted of 224 members, the changes are summarised below.

	Resident	Non-resident	Total
2022 Roll	187	37	224
Additions	1	2	3
Removals	-3	0	-3
Total 2023	185	39	224

This report was agreed by the PCC on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2024

Signed:  (Revd Stephen Beck, PCC Chair)

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF WIGAN NORTH EAST**  
**(Charity Ref. No. 1201984)**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF WIGAN NORTH EAST (Charity No. 1201984)**  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT**

**RECEIPTS**

**Voluntary Giving:**

	General Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	2023 Total	2022 Total
Gift Aid planned giving	34,412			34,412	35,665
Other planned giving	6,924			6,924	7,083
Collections at services	8,744			8,744	7,142
Donations	2,801	76	320	3,197	2,972
Gift Aid recovered	14,299			14,299	13,568
Legacies received	0			0	0
Grants received	6,663			6,663	1,500

**Activities for generating funds:**

Income from fundraising	8,664	455	370	9,489	9,867
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**Income from investments:**

Bank interest received	213	46		259	364
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**Church activities:**

Statutory fees (weddings, funerals etc)	21,448			21,448	17,663
Magazine income				0	0
Hall lettings	6,430	9,294		15,724	11,618
Other income	2,480			2,480	1,725

**TOTAL RECEIPTS**

<b>113,078</b>	<b>9,871</b>	<b>690</b>	<b>123,639</b>	<b>109,167</b>
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**PAYMENTS**

**Costs of generating funds:**

Weekly envelopes	113			113	305
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**Costs of church activities:**

Deanery share contribution	53,000			53,000	86,200
Salaries, wages and honararia				0	0
Clergy expenses	10,804			10,804	8,557
Upkeep of services	2,258	673	630	3,561	2,401
Routine church maintenance	4,071			4,071	2,915
Church insurance	7,987			7,987	6,407
Church utility bills	17,810			17,810	15,159
Administration and governance	1,787			1,787	1,070
Churchyard maintenance	0		1,071	1,071	4,343
Magazine costs	0			0	0
Church hall costs	0	4,102		4,102	2,941

**Major expenditure:**

Major repairs to church building	0			0	0
Major repairs to church hall	0			0	0

**TOTAL PAYMENTS**

<b>97,830</b>	<b>4,775</b>	<b>1,701</b>	<b>104,306</b>	<b>130,298</b>
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**NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)**

<b>15,248</b>	<b>5,096</b>	<b>(1,011)</b>	<b>19,333</b>	<b>(21,131)</b>
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**Transfers between funds**

<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
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**NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS**

<b>15,248</b>	<b>5,096</b>	<b>(1,011)</b>	<b>19,333</b>	<b>(21,131)</b>
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Balances b/fwd at 1st January 2023

<b>(11,690)</b>	<b>61,404</b>	<b>25,981</b>	<b>75,695</b>	<b>96,826</b>
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**Balances c/fwd at 31st December 2023**

<b>3,558</b>	<b>66,500</b>	<b>24,970</b>	<b>95,028</b>	<b>75,695</b>
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**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF WIGAN NORTH EAST (Charity No. 1201984)**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**

	General Fund	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	2023 Total	2022 Total
Cash in Hand	0	0	0	0	5
Bank Current Accounts:	893	66,500	22,448	89,841	40,020
Bank Deposit Account		0		0	8,332
CBF Deposit Accounts	42	0	2,522	2,564	24,716
CBF Fixed Income Investments	2,623	0	0	2,623	2,622
	3,558	66,500	24,970	95,028	75,695

**Notes**

1. The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2009 using the Receipts and Payments basis.

2. Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind is excluded from the financial statements by s.10(2) of the Charities Act 2011

The following assets are recognised but not necessarily valued in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities:

- moveable church furnishings held by the Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC which require a faculty for disposal

- additional property owned by the PCC but which has not been valued:

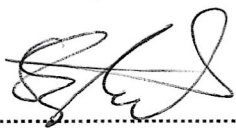
St David's Parish Hall, St Elizabeth's Parish Hall & St Stephen's Parish Hall

3. The expenses paid to clergy may include a small immaterial proportion which relates to their function as PCC members.

4. No payments were made to PCC members for being members of the PCC.

Approved by the PCC on

2024 and signed on their behalf by:



Chairman



Treasurer

27<sup>th</sup> February 2024

**Independent Examiner's unqualified report to the members of  
the P.C.C. of the Parish of Wigan North East  
(Charity Registration Number 1201984)  
of the P.C.C Financial Statements for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup>. December 2023.  
as set out on pages of this Report.**

**Respective responsibilities of the P.C.C. and the examiner.**

The P.C.C. members acting as the charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for the year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:

examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act  
to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity  
Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and  
to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of the Independent Examiner's statement.**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission and the guidance published in PCC Accountability (The Charities Act 2011 and the P.C.C.), 5<sup>th</sup> edition). An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with these records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required for an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

**Independent examiner's statement.**

In connection with my examination, no material matter has come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act, or  
the accounts do not accord to the accounting records.

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

Signed. *Alan A Clements*  
Name      Revd. A. A. Clements.

Date 15<sup>th</sup>. May 2024.

Fellow Association of Charity Independent Examiners.

Address    15 Carleton Road, Great Knowley, Chorley PR6 8TQ

ACIE PCC CC32