



ANNUAL REPORT

2024-25 A church for all in Benwell and
Scotswood

OUR MISSION

We believe that Jesus calls us to keep two commandments – to love God and to love our neighbour as ourselves.

We hope for this love to inform everything we do.

ONE CHURCH FOUR LOCATIONS

St John's Benwell Village
Ferguson Lane, NE15 6NW

The Venerable Bede West Road
West Road, NE4 8AP



St Margaret's Scotswood
Heighley Street, NE15 6AR

St James Benwell
Benwell Lane, NE15 6RS

Parish
originally
established
1833

Population
22568

202nd most
deprived out
of 12,178
parishes

Indices of
multiple
deprivation
bottom 1%

Registered
charity
number
1205934



Benwell and Scotswood Team Parish is a genuinely inclusive and authentic community in the west end of Newcastle upon Tyne. We work tirelessly to share the love of Jesus Christ and care for the community, whatever their background or belief.

The Church of England parish began in the 1830s. In 1985 St James, St John, and the Venerable Bede came together to form the Benwell Team. St Margaret's Scotswood then joined in 2015 to create Benwell and Scotswood Team Parish.

We are in one of the most culturally and ethnically diverse areas in the Diocese. We have seen significant growth and change in recent years, with many people of all backgrounds joining the worshipping community. We proudly welcome and offer support to asylum seekers and refugees.

BENWELL TEAM PARISH
SCOTSWOOD

Exhibitions

Artist in residence

Socials, fayres & trips

Volunteering opportunities

Office spaces for charities,
community groups &
nursery

Community
festivals Care

Commemorations &
Civic events

PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

We are proud of the organisations that have been established by our churches and now work in partnership with us as independent organisations and projects. These include:

Newcastle Foodbank

Pathways out of Hunger project

Pendower Good Neighbour Project

Cornerstone community centre

North Benwell Youth Project

St James Heritage &
Environment Group

Multicultural
welfare

Others we work with include:

Mothers' Union

New Writing North

Newcastle City Council

EPIC

Search

The Dialogue Society

home visiting & music

MINISTRY

Pastoral care

Sunday Worship

Farsi Bible Study

Junior Church

Mothers' Union

Baptisms, weddings, funerals

Music group

Holy Week & Easter

Exploring Faith group

Anna Chaplaincy (dementia)



BENWELL
SCOTSWOOD

TEAM PARISH
SCOTSWOOD

A SAFE CHURCH

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, if you witness or are told something then:

- We promote a safe environment and culture.
- We safely recruit those with responsibility for young people and vulnerable adults.
- We respond promptly to concerns and allegations.
- We listen to survivors of abuse and take them seriously.
- We will respond with action and care for all those affected.
- **Recognise** the signs that abuse may be happening.
- **Respond** sensitively and listen - don't question or investigate.
- **Record** factually and accurately what you have been told in the language they used.
- **Report** immediately to the Church Safeguarding Officer, or the Diocesan safeguarding officer.

If there is immediate danger call 999.

**Seen or heard something that doesn't feel right?
Something made you feel worried?
Tell someone!**

If in any doubt, contact the Diocese of Newcastle Safeguarding Adviser:
safeguarding@newcastle.anglican.org

Brenda McCutcheon

Parish Safeguarding Officer
brendamccutcheon@yahoo.co.uk
07940 27877



Mike Keller

Assistant Safeguarding Officer
fkeller@btinternet.com
07761 542007



Kathy Germaine

Assistant Safeguarding Officer
kathleen342434@hotmail.com
0191 2451903



Visit our website for info and advice:
benwellscotswood.com/safeguarding

BENWELL + TEAM PARISH
SCOTSWOOD

A WELCOMING CHURCH

We believe every person is made in the image of God and is of infinite worth. We are committed to creating a welcoming, inclusive community where everyone is treated with dignity and respect regardless of:

Age
Disability
Gender identity or sex
Sexual orientation and marital status
Pregnancy and maternity
Race (including colour, nationality, or ethnicity)
Religion or belief
Immigration status

We aim to be a community where diversity is celebrated and valued.
We will continue to learn together as a community, and we will challenge discrimination.



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Newcastle

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

The Church of England's vocation is and always has been to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ afresh in each generation to the people of England.

(The Church of England's vision and strategy)

THE DIOCESE OF NEWCASTLE

We are **seeking** through being open to God's transforming love; **sharing** through being generous with God's transforming gifts; and we are **sending** through being engaged in God's transforming work in the world.

(Diocese of Newcastle values)



The Right Revd Dr
Helen-Ann Hartley
Bishop of Newcastle



The Right Revd Mark Wroe
Bishop of Berwick

 **Seeking.**
 **Sharing.**
 **Sending.**

OUR MINISTRY TEAM

CLERGY

Team Rector (full-time stipendiary)

The Revd David Kirkwood, Retired Aug 2024

Team Vicar for Mission (full-time stipendiary)

The Revd Chris Minchin

House for Duty Vicar - Vacant

Retired Clergy with PTO - The Revd Anne Marr

Goodbye to David

We were sad to say goodbye to our wonderful Team Rector who retired in August. But we were also glad to celebrate his ministry and all he had done for us at a farewell service.

LAY MINISTERS

Licensed Reader - Kathleen Germain

Anna Chaplain - Shirley Irving

Authorised Lay Ministers

Grace Thomson, Timothy Ohanaka,
Chris Libby, Carol Davison,
Christopher Foscett, Shirley Irving

Lay Ministers in training

Amir Zarei, Lorestani, Maryam Ahmadi,
Ikenna Okafor

WHO WILL OUR NEW RECTOR BE?



Interviews will be taking place in June!
Please pray for the candidates and the
interview panel.

PCC OFFICERS 2024-25

Team Rector (chair)

Vacant

Team Vicar for Mission (Vice chair)

The Revd Christopher Minchin

Licensed Lay Reader

Kathleen Germain

Secretary (co-opted)

Kath McIntyre

Parish Treasurer (co-opted)

James Garratt

St James' Churchwardens

Michael Keller & Julius Ijefiya

St John's Churchwardens

Shirley Irving & vacant

St Margaret's Churchwardens

Brenda McCutcheon & Grace Thompson

Venerable Bede Churchwardens

Kath McIntyre

St John's reps

Joyce Cuthbertson & Chris Libby

Venerable Bede reps

Donna Germain & James Garratt

St James' reps

Francesca Stockdale & Vacant

St Margaret's reps

Jill Sorley & vacant

Deanery Synod Reps

Carol Davison, Michael Keller, vacant

Asylum Seeker Reps (co-opted)

Timothy Ohanaka & Amirreza Zarei

St John's Treasurer (co-opted)

Colina Fenton

OTHER POSITIONS (not PCC)

Electoral Roll Officer

Kath McIntyre

Safeguarding Administrator

Kath McIntyre

Parish Safeguarding officer

Brenda McCutcheon

Assistant Safeguarding officers

Kathleen Germain, Michael Keller, & vacant

Eco-champion

vacant

St James Heritage and Environment Group reps

Michael Keller & vacant

Treasurer for St James, Venerable Bede, and St Margaret's

James Garratt

St James Caretaker (contracted)

Christopher Foskett

Artist in Residence at St James (contracted)

Petra Ondrova

APPOINTMENTS

Independent Examiner:

Justine Beer

St James & Ven Bede Inspecting Architect:

Peter Nugent (Ainsworth Sparks)

St John's Inspecting Architect

Christopher J Blackburn

St Margaret's Inspecting Architect

Ian Ness

TEAM VICAR'S REPORT

I want to begin by saying a huge thank you to David Kirkwood, without his vision, sense of justice, and boundless humour, we wouldn't be in such a positive position.

Since our last annual meeting we have witnessed a counter-protest to a planned racist march on the West Road. We have also seen a gas explosion that killed seven-year-old Archie York and a young man, Jay Laws, and also displaced many families from their homes. I have also heard so many stories of the trauma that some of you have suffered fleeing the countries of your birth. In each instance the community has responded with authentic compassion and care. This is not a community that just puts on a brave face, this is a deeply courageous and strong

community. In a world that seems more and more volatile, I look at the people around me and I do not worry, I feel genuinely hopeful. In fact, I feel joyful.

I see the mission of God running through everything that we do in this place. I see it in all the people here, and I particularly want to pay tribute to a few people:

- Our Farsi translators, who never complain about translating the (occasionally convoluted) thoughts of our preachers and who so sensitively help our members engage with the Bible.
- The Revd Anne Marr who chooses to minister to us so generously.
- Shirley Irving, who has faithfully served the church of St John's for decades and is now pursuing her true vocation as an Anna Chaplain.
- Petra Ondrova (AKA Artep Avordno) our artist in residence, who is preparing to move back to Czechia, and has helped create friendship and joy in our community, and has shown true wisdom and tenacity that has kept me grounded.
- Carol Davison for setting up for our services with such care and dedication.
- Reza Raoufi who never asks for our thanks, even when he truly deserves them.
- Timothy Ohanaka and Chris Libby for reinvigorating our music.
- Kath McIntyre, who has too many jobs to list, takes them all in her stride, and seems to be single-handedly sorting out the entire Church of England.
- Chris Foskett, without whom so much of our work would not happen
- Grace Thomson for the pure offering of her faith which inspires us all.
- Kathy Germain for reminding us, through her example, all that our most important task is to be the people God has called us to be.
- Brenda McCutcheon, Mike Keller, and Julius Ijefiya, our tireless churchwardens.

As we look towards interviews for a new Team Rector, I am not worried, because I see a community grounded in faith. In the coming months, I am grateful that Fr Allan Marks and The Revd Helen Young have agreed to help sustain our ministry



VOCATIONS

We believe all are called by God, whatever their background or abilities, and always welcome conversations about what this might look like for anyone. We should be proud our parish is a place where vocations have been encouraged and developed, both lay and ordained.

This year we have been blessed to have Marc Voase on placement with us from Cranmer Hall, Durham, who has given us stimulating sermons and been a welcoming presence throughout the week.

We must also note our huge thanks to The Revd Mike Baldwin, lent to us by his parish in Durham Diocese, he

became part of the family in the two months he was with us. We were sad to see him go, but we know he will be a blessing wherever his ministry takes him.

We look forward to The Revd Claire Lewis' ordination to the priesthood on 28th June 2025 and we pray for The Revd Abigail Harris as she continues in her curacy.

We have many continuing their training in lay ministry.

MOTHERS' UNION

Benwell Scotswood has a thriving Mothers' Union branch with 2 meetings each month. The branch has been running since March 2009 and membership is steady at

There is a Wednesday morning meeting held at the Venerable Bede Church. This group meets once a month for a short Bible reading and reflection followed by prayer and a simple craft. There is coffee and cake and the meeting is followed by morning prayer. This group has been running since January 2023 and there are regularly 5-6 women attending this group. There is also a Thursday evening meeting held in a member's home. This group shares joys and sorrows, has a discussion and share curry and wine. There are usually 4-7 women attending this each month.

In June 2024 the Branch, along with Mothers' Union Branches in the West Deanery, hosted the diocesan festival. This was a fantastic event, made possible by the hard work of so many people. Approximately 175 people came through the doors of St James, with around 125 staying for a service led by Bishop Helen Ann. People were able to enjoy crafts, tours of the historic graveyard, midday prayers, view the artwork of the Something Wonderful Project, enjoy some music and have a good feast. The day also raised £500 for Mothers' Union and £500 for the Something Wonderful Project. As a direct result of this event, Newcastle Mothers' Union are now supporting the Something Wonderful Project, giving regular donations of supplies to help keep the important work going.

JUNIOR CHURCH

We have a thriving Junior Church in the weekly hub service. This is different from a traditional Sunday School with children taken out for their own separate activities. In Junior Church, the children and young people worship alongside the adults in the main service. There are children ranging from 3-17 years and there are regularly 1015 children attending. Young people sit in the front row of chairs and younger children sit at the tables supported by the adults who organise Junior Church.

The children and young people have their own TV screen which supports them to follow the service. They are encouraged to follow the order of service and have laminated cards on a small clipboard to support them to do this. These cards point out the main features of the service and invite the children to think about what is happening. They can note their thoughts on the cards using wipe clean pens. Children are also provided with an envelope containing a small craft and a copy of the reading. The aim of this is to help them to respond to the Gospel reading during the sermon. It is hoped that this structure will support our children to understand the service and to take an active part in the worship alongside the adult congregation.

Going forward we hope to grow the team of adults supporting our young people so that we can help them to really engage with the weekly service. A stronger team will enable us to explore new ways of helping young people worship and respond to the Gospel.

PCC SECRETARY REPORT

Team Rector David Kirkwood retired last August.

David and his wife Elspeth have now left the parish.

We wish them a happy, contented future.

It is hoped that a new rector will be appointed in

next few weeks. Chris Minchin must be commended as he has maintained his role of mission priest admirable while taking on additional rector duties.

PCC and standing committee continue to meet four times each year and members remain dedicated to ensuring that the parish and welcoming to all.

Congregations are increasing and baptism requests are received frequently.

Fund raising and grant applications are vital as building maintenance is an ongoing issue.

We are truly grateful for assistance and work from all volunteers.

Kath McIntyre

VENERABLE BEDE, WEST ROAD

Venerable Bede church and hall is mostly in good state of repair, but some minor repairs and maintenance is required.

The Food Bank hire Venerable Bede Hall on Mondays and Thursdays and it has been rented for private events on numerous occasions providing useful stream of income.

Venerable Bede Church has been venue for hub service from Oct until Apr and services are till held there every Thursday.

Thank you to everyone for your support.

Kath McIntyre

ST JAMES BENWELL

Our thanks go to everyone who, by sharing their time, talents, and treasures, help to ensure that St James' Church continues to serve the community of the West End of Newcastle – by being a space for worship, human connections, nourishment of body, mind, and spirit, all for the glory of God.

In addition to one-off events, St James' Church continues to be regularly used and appreciated by various groups throughout the year, including:

- West End Writes
- Lunch Break
- Art Club
- Food Bank & Welfare Support

And we were delighted last August to welcome a repeat of the Benstock live music festival, as with

the previous year, it was another great success and helps to highlight the potential of our church.

As is to be expected, a building that is near to celebrating its bicentennial requires constant work, and in the past year the repairs and annual maintenance works included:

- Annual inspection and servicing of Combiboilers/heating, fire extinguishers & PAT testing
- Repair of radiators
- Repair of leaking urinal cistern
- Dismantling vestry wardrobe and storage units
- Tidying of Vestry and Nave
- Cutting back weeds & overgrowth and maintaining the raised beds to the north of the building

- Pest control have been called in to deal with repeated rodent sightings, now signed to an annual maintenance contract

Those items listed above are done with little no or fanfare, so we feel it necessary to highlight the stellar work of the Church Caretaker, Chris Foskett, for alerting us to all issues as they arise, providing access to those who repair and maintain the property, and for always going the extra mile in all that he does.

What is more obvious are the essential works currently being carried out by the Local Authority, including:

- Pruning of trees and removal and replacement of dead, dying or dangerous trees
- Resurfacing or excavation and relaying of paths

ST JOHN'S BENWELL VILLAGE

- Pointing, repair and rebuilding of walls and repair and replacement of fences or gates
- Straightening and making safe of headstones which have become unstable and repair as practicable of any vandalised monuments – in some instances, headstones may be laid down but not otherwise moved.

As always, we must express our deepest appreciation and gratitude to the St James' Heritage and Environment Group, which was founded in 2010, and it has been 16 years since the founding of the "Graveyard Group" since 2009. The importance and worth of the work these volunteers provide towards helping to research and promote the heritage and history of St James' Church and the West End and the tremendous effort they put into beautifying and maintaining the graveyard cannot be praised enough.

The presence of knotweed in limited areas of the graveyard has been known about ever since the "Graveyard Group" began work clearing and maintaining the area 15 years ago, and since then they have worked in partnership with the City Council to treat and eradicate it.

However, we know that the knotweed has spread significantly during the past two years in substantial parts of the south west part of the graveyard, necessitating unavoidable and urgent action. Those affected areas are strictly cordoned off for a major operation to tackle and, we pray, eradicate the knotweed, and the duration of the treatment is projected to last more than a year. I cannot emphasise enough how imperative it is for

everyone to understand and abide by this direction: nobody, and this includes dogs, may enter the cordoned off areas until the treatment is concluded.

It is at least some consolation that the knotweed is currently confined to areas at a generous distance from the church building, as any significant spread has the potential to cause significant damage to the building fabric.

Finally, I thank everyone who is reading this report, with special thanks for our amazing Team Vicar for Mission, Chris, our Reader, Kathy Germain, the other officers and volunteers, and the members of our congregation and our Team Parish, and for my dear fellow Churchwarden, Julius.

On Behalf of the Churchwardens of St James' Church Benwell,

Michael Keller May 2025

Fabric of Church:

Boiler checked in October - R.F.Henderson Joe fixed washer in kitchen, also the screen in church.

December - PAT done one failure (but now fixed) adapter for Christmas lights. January 25: we suffered high winds which damaged the side fence next to nursery. Thanks to Joe, Colina and Richard this was promptly fixed. February - Gents toilet radiator not working Boiler fixed.

March - Gas engineer changed pipes at back of church - put release valves as air was being trapped in pipe.

April - Gas engineer disconnected gas supply to the kitchen.

Heating in the Bramble room and corridors greatly improved.

Services:

Congregation attendance fluctuating due to members health problems.

The IT equipment working well thanks to Colina and Joyce. When screen is down someone standing at the side of it during communion for health and safety.

Carol Service was well attended. (Team Service)
Maundy Thursday well attended (Team Service)
washing of feet.

Activities:

Line dancing still going strong. Thanks to Linda for her hard work even though she has not been in the best of health since Christmas. We appreciate the support the church receives from the dancers. Wednesday sequence dance continues. Coffee mornings well attended - supported by the other churches, family and friends. Clothes sale is a boon. Ladies from Ferguson Lodge attend when possible. Feel part of St John's family. Thanks to those who help to bring them over. Ukelele - Meet Monday afternoon after the dancing. They continue to visit residential settings and complexes entertaining residents. Very and popular and they bring love and joy to all. Thank you for all your hard work and dedication. Approx 9-10 in the group. Also provide music for church services on occasion. A big thank you to Colina and Margy who set up the church each week after dancing. It is a great help thanks for their support. Olive Taylor did a talk (Old Roads of Benwell) it was well attended afterwards we had a lovely tea. Very positive feedback for the talk and tea. Everyone enjoyed themselves. Once again thanks to Olive and all who arranged the tea.

Over the past few months we have had the organ repaired and it made a very welcome tuneful addition to the Montague Pit Disaster Centenary celebration. Which we hosted and worked closely with The Heritage group and Scotswood Village residents to provide a truly memorable day, with various exhibitions, and shared fellowship in a service of commendation. Over 100 people attended during the morning and there were 80 people from all areas of the Northeast attended the service. Once again St. Margaret's showed their unique welcome to all.

We have need to have the lightening conductor tested as suggested at the quinquennium report. We still have to address any recommendations for the report.

It is over seven years since Scotswood Village Nursery moved into the hall area, they also hire the old vestry, the Children's Garden and have shared use of the kitchen. They renewed their licence in October 2020 for another 5-year term.

Changing Lives MAP and GAPs continue to occupy the upper room and have secured funding for the Elliot room, allowing them to employ a larger

ST MARGARET'S SCOTSWOOD

At the end of a year, were nothing seems to be normal; our building has continued to be open for service users and we continue with a new pattern of worship, with a communion service every Sunday at 9.45, Baptisms have taken place. Baptisms have gone back to what they were with larger numbers, although still not as many as usual. Grace our ALM has delivered a few services, and these were enjoyed by all present. Well, done Grace and thank you for sharing your skills.

The Fire safety equipment and the security lighting have been checked regularly, by Northern Fire and Security Ltd, who already maintain the electrics. We still have a lift maintenance contract with Northern Elevators who regularly service the lift (4 times a year). Unfortunately, it's 25 years since we had the building re-ordered, and the main control panel for the lift had to have major repairs. We have had the control panel for the heating repaired, at a cost of £10,000, thanks to Gladys Pew who's legacy paid for this major repair. All the light fitting have been repaired in the baptistry, upper office and toilets.

Holy Nativity Chapel house kindly donated a newer piano, which looks splendid, and modern.

team, from Monday to Friday weekly, they also hire the quiet room, which they use for one2one sessions. Once again, the building is busy and vibrant.

Since the pandemic all activities have not resumed, a slightly different form as the new normal emerged and the clergy worked with the Bishop to reshape the Diocese. New worship patterns have emerged and will continue to be reviewed as the Benwell Scotswood Team take on a new shape, since David Kirkwood retired last summer. Who Knows what God's plan is? We will also have to look at future fundraising events and how we reach out to involve the community in these.

As we move forward we pray that the Holy Spirit will guide us into the future for our Church in Scotswood and help us to develop a new vibrant pattern of worship and social life, making St. Margaret's once again a happy, healthy centre which meets the needs of the community.

Thank you all for your help and support over the past year, you have all shown how loyal and committed you are to keeping St. Margaret's going.

Brenda M^cCutcheon Grace Thomson, (Church

FINANCIAL SUMMARY Income, Expenditure and Funds 2024

James Garratt, PCC Treasurer

Money in

	\$ James	Van Bede	\$ John	\$ Margaret	Common	TOTAL 2024	TOTAL 2023
Planned giving	5,915	4,842	2,919	2,347	200	16,223	18,383
Collections of services	315	436	1,106	200	0	2,057	4,600
All other giving	2,214	824	367	40	468	3,913	5,267
Gift Aid	38	1,306	10	10	10	1,374	5,462
Grants and legacies	41,194	621	0	10,000	20,960	72,775	54,958
Fundraising	1,257	0	8,026	0	0	9,283	11,279
Fees and rentals	1,915	9,048	174	27,940	188	39,265	39,154
Investments	688	212	841	0	0	1,741	1,319
Other income	0	0	441	0	0	441	0
TOTAL	\$3,535	17,288	13,884	40,537	21,824	147,079	140,420
Transfers within team	0	0	0	0	20,960	20,960	32,658
TOTAL minus transfers within Team	\$3,535	17,288	13,884	40,537	844	126,119	107,762

Money out

	\$ James	Van Bede	\$ John	\$ Margaret	Common	TOTAL 2024	TOTAL 2023
Diocesan parish share	0	0	0	0	12,400	12,400	16,800
Staff salaries and expenses	0	0	0	0	344	344	4,465
Charitable giving	7,200	164	0	0	200	7,564	1,627
Transfers within team (incl. to Common fund)	5,208	7,836	6,108	1,808	0	20,960	26,117
Other mission payments	420	533	0	0	153	1,106	10,525
Church services	1,051	104	72	309	122	1,659	2,313
Insurance	8,700	3,794	738	3,774	0	17,007	14,938
Church upkeep	8,580	2,894	468	3,952	2,151	18,245	27,007
Utilities	5,967	5,126	689	13,767	4,416	31,965	28,093
Costs of fundraising	706	0	0	0	0	706	2,769
Major building / repair	31,993	0	301	11,826	321	44,491	8,609
TOTAL	49,826	20,452	8,576	35,486	22,107	156,448	143,263
Transfers within team	5,208	7,836	6,108	1,808	0	20,960	28,467
TOTAL minus transfers within Team	44,618	12,616	2,468	33,678	22,107	135,488	114,796

Money remaining on 31 December 2024

	\$ James	Van Bede	\$ John	\$ Margaret	Common	TOTAL 2024	TOTAL 2023
General access funds	3,036	19,671	17,804	19,803	7,325	67,639	67,270
Restricted funds	2,831	0	20,351	0	0	23,183	32,920
TOTAL	5,867	19,671	38,155	19,803	7,325	90,821	100,190

This has been a financially challenging year for the Benwell and Scotswood Team. The total income was just over £128,000, an increase from the previous year of around £11,000. The expenses also rose by £22,000, meaning that our financial position at the end of the year is weaker than it was at the start of the year.

We were pleased to pay our full parish share in 2024. The areas of notable expenditure are insurance (£17,000), church upkeep (£18,000) and utility bills (£32,000). There have been some major repairs required, costing £47,000.

Our income from all sources of voluntary giving (planned, collections and other giving) has declined from £28,000 to £24,000. In the autumn, we celebrated generosity and launched our membership of the Parish Giving Scheme. We are confident that this will help to reverse that decline. We had 31 individual planned givers during 2024. Some people gave to more than one of the churches. Our gift aid recovered was lower than in previous years because only one church put in a full claim. Catching up on this is a priority for 2025. We plan to re-validate all gift aid data in 2025 and use our new position as a registered charity to become more consistent with our claims. Our membership of the Parish Giving Scheme will help to improve our regular income from Gift Aid.

GOVERNANCE

Benwell and Scotswood Team Parish is a registered charity (number 1205934). The charity is the responsibility of a PCC (parochial church council) duly constituted under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure (1956) and the Church Representation Rules.

Parochial Church Council Powers Measure (1956): legislation.gov.uk/ukcm/Eliz2/4-5/3/contents

Church representation rules: churchofengland.org/about/leadership-and-governance/legal-resources/church-representation-rules

The parish is led by the incumbent Rector and a Team Vicar, along with the PCC which consists of elected Churchwardens and lay representatives. They are the trustees of the charity.

THE PCC

There are 4 PCC meetings per year.

The PCC consists of:

- The Rector (chair, ex-officio).
- Licensed clergy (ex-officio).
- Licensed readers (ex-officio).
- 2 churchwardens for each church.
- 2 elected representatives for each church.
- 3 Deanery Synod representatives.

PCC members may occupy more than one position. They must be safely recruited with an enhanced DBS check and undertake safeguarding in leadership training (Level 3) and this is renewed regularly.

Co-opted (non-voting) officers are:

- The Secretary
- The Treasurer
- Two asylum seeker and refugee Representatives.

The PCC may also vote to create other officer roles and co-opt other individuals to the PCC when this is useful.

STANDING COMMITTEE

The Standing Committee meets approximately 2 weeks prior to each PCC.

The Standing Committee is a smaller, focused group who ensure PCC business is carried out between meetings and discuss details of proposals to be made at PCC.

The committee consists of the licensed clergy and readers, secretary, treasurer and one warden from each church (where there is more than one warden in a church, they may alternate who joins the committee).

ASYLUM & REFUGEE REPS

At the APCM in 2024 we agreed to create two asylum seeker and refugee Representative positions. This was to recognise the importance of the many asylum seeker and refugees in our community, but who also face barriers to joining the PCC as full members and charity trustees.

- The reps are invited to attend all PCC meetings and fully partake in discussions and planning.
- As officers appointed by the PCC this means they are not trustees, and therefore do not vote, but the PCC agrees that their views will be valued, considered seriously in all matters, and recorded in the minutes. In the event of reps having to move on, new reps can be appointed by a vote of the PCC. The reps need not fulfil the ordinary requirements of PCC members, including being on the electoral roll or complete a DBS check, though this is desirable wherever possible.

ANNUAL MEETING

The APCM (Annual Parochial Church Meeting) is when we hear reports from the last year and approve the annual accounts, this is immediately followed by the Annual Meeting of Parishioners when we elect Churchwardens.

Anyone on the electoral roll may vote at the APCM and stand for a position.

ELECTORAL ROLL

To be eligible to join the electoral roll you must be over 16, baptised, and either live within the Parish boundaries or have attended the church regularly for at least 6 months.

DCCs

Each church has a District Church Council. At the APCM in 2023 it was agreed the DCCs would now only meet annually and comprise the bare minimum of members to reduce the number of meetings and avoid duplication of work done by the PCC. This is apart from St John's, who still value the space for discussion and meet 4 times a year.

SUB-COMMITTEES

Task-focused sub-committees are formed when necessary and report to the PCC. Currently there is a sub-committee for stewardship and finance, and a steering committee for the Something Wonderful project.

STAFF

The parish currently does not employ anyone directly. The parish is allocated two full-time stipendiary priests by the Diocese who are paid for by the Church of England Commissioners.

St James contracts the services of Chris Foscett as a caretaker, and Petra Ondrova as Artist in Residence. The church also contracts the services of various individuals and companies for maintenance and repairs, such as cleaners, roofers, and architects.

VOLUNTEERS

We encourage participation from all our worshipping community. There are various volunteer roles and we encourage the wider community to get involved as well.

There is a safer-recruitment process for all volunteers and a DBS and safeguarding training may be required for certain roles. If you are interested in volunteering then please get in contact.

-
- Be open to change and new ideas.
- Speak openly and honestly.
- Listen respectfully without interruption.
- Stay focused and on topic.
- Be constructive with criticism. S
- consensus and accept majority decisions.
- Take responsibility for attending meetings.

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

The Church of England is the established church, it is large and diverse denomination with a long history. The Archbishops of York and Canterbury and local bishops govern the church with the elected representatives of the General Synod. There are also 40 other independent Anglican provinces across the world.

THE DIOCESE OF NEWCASTLE

Framed by the Rivers Tyne and Tweed the Diocese of Newcastle is the Church of England's most northerly diocese. This Diocese in the 'land of the Northern Saints' was formed in 1882 and comprises 169 parishes across 2,110 square miles. The Diocese covers the local authorities of Northumberland, Newcastle, North Tyneside and also small parts of County Durham and Cumbria. The 12 deaneries within 2 archdeaconries serve a population of about 800,000 people across a variety of communities ranging from sparse rural to large inner-city areas of deprivation.

The Diocese is led by the Diocesan Bishop of Newcastle and the suffragan Bishop of Berwick. The Newcastle Diocesan Synod is the representative governing body of the Diocese of Newcastle. In it, the Bishops, along with elected clergy and lay people, meet to discuss the issues facing churches across the Diocese and make decisions about their common future. The clergy and laity of Diocesan Synod are elected from each Deanery by the members of Deanery Synods.

NORTHUMBERLAND

ARCHDEACONRY

Our parish is in the Northumberland Archdeaconry in the primarily urban south-east of the Diocese. The Archdeacon is a senior member of clergy who is responsible for the administration of the church in this part of the Diocese.

NEWCASTLE WEST DEANERY

We are in the Newcastle West Deanery. Licensed clergy meet as the Deanery Chapter to support and pray for each other. Each parish also elects lay representatives to the Deanery Synod. Each deanery is led by an ordained Area Dean and a Lay Chair. The Deanery Synod considers topical issues, it passes motions to be considered by the Diocesan Synod and is responsible for creating deanery plans. Our deanery synod meets 3 times a year.

DIOCESAN CONTACTS

Bishop of Newcastle

The Bishop's House
29 Moor Road South, Gosforth, NE3 1PA
bishop.ha@newcastle.anglican.org
Personal Assistant - Deborah Botha
d.botha@newcastle.anglican.org
0191 285 2220

The Bishop of Berwick

bishopofberwick@newcastle.anglican.org
Personal Assistant - Elena Rose
elenarose.crawford@newcastle.anglican.org
0191 285 2220

The Archdeacon of Northumberland

The Venerable Rachel Wood
northumberland@newcastle.anglican.org 0191 270 4157 / 07469950198
Personal Assistant - Katherine Govier
k.govier@newcastle.anglican.org
0191 270 4142

Area Dean for Newcastle West

The Revd James McGowan
Vicar of St James and St Basil's Fenham
0191 266 1071
vicar@jamesbasilfenham.org.uk

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of Benwell & Scotswood
Team Parish, Newcastle upon Tyne

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are set out on pages 1 to 11, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and section 43 of the Charities Act 1993 ('the Act').

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements.

You consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and section 43(2) of the Act do not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of this report My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the

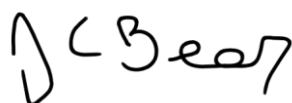
Charity Commission under section 43(7)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church Guidance, 2006 edition, issued by the Finance Division of the Archbishops' Council. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
 - to prepare financial statements, which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations

have not been met; or

- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



16/05/2025

Justine Beer

FCCA
3 Bevan Court
Hepscott park
Morpeth
NE61 6FH

SAFEGUARDING POLICY

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 implementation at least annually.

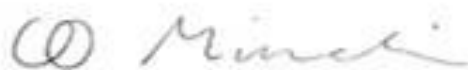
Each person who works within this church community will agree to abide by this policy and the guidelines established by this church.

This church appoints:

Brenda McCutcheon, as Parish Safeguarding Officer

Kathleen Germaine and Michael Keller as Assistant Safeguarding Officers.

Signed on behalf of Benwell and Scotswood Team PCC, 25th May 2025



The Revd Christopher Minchin
Team Vicar for Mission
Vice-Chair, Benwell and Scotswood PCC

Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Policy

Benwell and Scotswood Team Parish

Diocese of Newcastle upon Tyne

INTRODUCTION

Benwell and Scotswood Team Parochial Church Council (PCC) is fully committed to the promotion of equality of opportunity and elimination of unlawful and unfair discrimination, valuing and embracing diversity and ensuring a holistic and inclusive approach in all fields of its activity.

The PCC adheres to The Equality Act 2010 which recognises the following specific protected characteristics: sex, gender reassignment, race (which includes colour, nationality and ethnic or national origins), disability, age, religion or belief, sexual orientation, marriage & civil partnership and pregnancy & maternity. It will not discriminate because of any other irrelevant factors and will build a culture that values openness, fairness and transparency.

AIM

- To ensure equality, diversity and inclusion are fully reflected in its employment practices and procedures, and that it is compliant with the statutory employment duties under the Equality Act 2010.
- To ensure employment policies and procedures are monitored and reviewed so that they do not operate against its Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy.
- To ensure it attracts and retains a diverse workforce through appropriate recruitment and selection methods. A potential exception to this is where a Genuine Occupational Requirement (GOR) is identified in relation to a specific role.
 - Under the Equality Act 2010 an employer may exercise the right to exercise legal exemptions under the 'occupational requirement' (GOR) in relation to any of the protected characteristics. Under this an employer must simply show that the requirement to discriminate is a 'proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim'. For example, in the light of the Church of England's Christian purpose and ethos it reserves the right to exercise legal exemption where it is declared that a Christian faith is integral to the individual in a specific work role and consequently requires membership of the Church of England or another recognised church.
- To ensure equality, diversity and inclusion is also applied where our buildings used by external groups and organisations.
 - Schedule 23, paragraph 2 permits religious organizations to be exempt from such obligation whereby any activities may conflict with the doctrine and religious conscience. Though the church community rooms may be protected under this provision, the governing body PCC reserves the right to consider each application fairly on a case by case basis.

The PCC, ministers, and employees will:

- Ensure that its commitment is communicated to all employees and volunteers fairly and responsibly including users of its services, and all those working for, on behalf of, or providing a service to the Parish.
- Lead by example, encouraging equality, diversity and inclusion internally and externally, embedding these values in decision making processes, and creating a climate where the differences that individuals bring are valued.
- Foster good relations between all employees and ministers, and service users/providers.
- Be aware of their responsibilities and report inappropriate behaviour/s and raise any incident/s that potentially breach this Policy with the appropriate line manager.

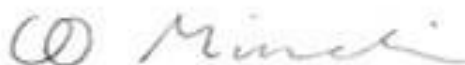
EXTERNAL GROUPS IN OUR BUILDINGS

- No individual will experience less favourable treatment (discrimination) in the use or hire of our buildings due to protected characteristics.
- We continue to review the need to adapt the physical environment to be inclusive and accessible for all.
- Where a proposed group's operation may be seen to conflict with Church doctrine or Church Canon Law, the PCC via the Rector will review the application and make a case-by-case determination which will be communicated to the potential hirer.

REVIEWING THIS POLICY

- This policy continues to evolve and will be formally reviewed every year.

Signed on behalf of Benwell and Scotswood Team PCC, 25th May 2025



The Revd Christopher Minchin
Team Vicar for Mission
Vice-Chair, Benwell and Scotswood PCC

DATA PRIVACY POLICY

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC) OF BENWELL & SCOTSWOOD TEAM PARISH

1. Your personal data – what is it?

Personal data relates to a living individual who can be identified from that data. Identification can be by the information alone or in conjunction with any other information in the data controller's possession or likely to come into such possession. The processing of personal data is governed by the General Data Protection Regulation (the "GDPR").

2. Who are we?

The PCC of Benwell/Scotswood Team Parish is the data controller (contact details below). This means it decides how your personal data is processed and for what purposes.

3. How do we process your personal data?

The PCC of Benwell/Scotswood Team Parish complies with its obligations under the "GDPR" by keeping personal data up to date; by storing and destroying it securely; by not collecting or retaining excessive amounts of data; by protecting personal data from loss, misuse, unauthorised access and disclosure and by ensuring that appropriate technical measures are in place to protect personal data.

We use your personal data for the following purposes:

- To enable us to provide a voluntary service for the benefit of the public in a particular geographical area as specified in our constitution;
- To administer membership records;
- To fundraise and promote the interests of the charity;
- To manage our employees and volunteers;
- To maintain our own accounts and records (including the processing of gift aid applications);
- To inform you of news, events, activities and services running in Benwell and Scotswood Team Parish;
- To share your contact details with the Diocesan office so they can keep you informed about news in the diocese and events, activities and services that will be occurring in the diocese and in which you may be interested.

4. What is the legal basis for processing your personal data?

- Explicit consent of the data subject so that we can keep you informed about news, events, activities and services and keep you informed about diocesan events.
- Processing is necessary for carrying out legal obligations in relation to Gift Aid or under employment, social security or social protection law, or a collective agreement;
- Processing is carried out by a not-for-profit body with a political, philosophical, religious or trade union aim provided: -
 - the processing relates only to members or former members (or those who have regular contact with it in connection with those purposes); and
 - there is no disclosure to a third party without consent.

5. Sharing your personal data

Your personal data will be treated as strictly confidential and will only be shared with other members of the church in order to carry out a service to other church members or for purposes connected with the church. We will only share your data with third parties outside of the parish with your consent.

6. How long do we keep your personal data?

We keep data in accordance with the guidance set out in the guide ['Keep or Bin: Care of Your Parish Records'](#) which is available from the Church of England website.

Specifically, we retain electoral roll data while it is still current; gift aid declarations and associated paperwork for up to 6 years after the calendar year to which they relate; and parish registers (baptisms, marriages, funerals) permanently.

7. Your rights and your personal data

Unless subject to an exemption under the GDPR, you have the following rights with respect to your personal data:

- The right to request a copy of your personal data which the PCC of Benwell/Scotswood Team Parish holds about you;
- The right to request that the PCC of Benwell/Scotswood Team Parish corrects any personal data if it is found to be inaccurate or out of date;
- The right to request your personal data is erased where it is no longer necessary for the PCC of Benwell/Scotswood Team Parish to retain such data;
- The right to withdraw your consent to the processing at any time
- The right to request that the data controller provide the data subject with his/her personal data and where possible, to transmit that data directly to another data controller, (known as the right to data portability), (where applicable) [Only applies where the processing is based on consent or is necessary for the performance of a contract with the data subject and in either case the data controller processes the data by automated means].
- The right, where there is a dispute in relation to the accuracy or processing of your personal data, to request a restriction is placed on further processing;
- The right to object to the processing of personal data, (where applicable) [Only applies where processing is based on legitimate interests (or the performance of a task in the public interest/exercise of official authority); direct marketing and processing for the purposes of scientific/historical research and statistics]
- The right to lodge a complaint with the Information Commissioner's Office.

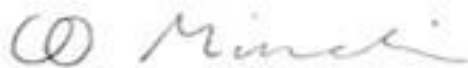
8. Further processing

If we wish to use your personal data for a new purpose, not covered by this Data Protection Notice, then we will provide you with a new notice explaining this new use prior to commencing the processing and setting out the relevant purposes and processing conditions. Where and whenever necessary, we will seek your prior consent to the new processing.

9. Contact Details

To exercise all relevant rights, queries or complaints please in the first instance contact the Team Rector (or if there is a vacancy, the Team Vicar or Churchwardens) at church@benwellscotswood.com

Signed on behalf of Benwell and Scotswood Team PCC, 25th May 2025



The Revd Christopher Minchin
Team Vicar for Mission
Vice-Chair, Benwell and Scotswood PCC

HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY

Benwell and Scotswood Team Parish (St James Benwell, St John's Benwell, St Margarets Scotswood, The Venerable Bede Benwell)

Contact: Parish Administrator

As a church, we understand that we owe a duty of care to ensure the safety of those who visit or use our churches, halls or churchyards.

We also know that, where we are an employer or control premises in certain circumstances, we have to meet the requirements of health and safety law.

GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

Our policy is to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that our activities are carried out safely and do not pose a risk to the health of our employees, volunteers, congregation, visitors and others who may use the churches, churchyard or any other buildings we are responsible for. This will be in accordance with good practice and any relevant statutory provisions where they apply.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) accepts its overall responsibility for this. We will ensure that adequate resources are made available to achieve this objective. Any decisions we make will have due regard for it.

We will appoint a member of the PCC to have specific responsibility for this policy and its implementation. We will keep health and safety matters under review at appropriate intervals. We will monitor the effectiveness of the policy, amending it where we believe it is no longer valid.

It is the duty of each employee and volunteer to exercise personal responsibility for their own safety and that of others. This policy will be brought to their attention. We will try to ensure that everyone involved with the church plays his or her part in its implementation.

Further detail about our organisation and arrangements for managing health and safety is set out in this document. Copies of it will be kept in our churches and made available to others on request.

ORGANISATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The member of the PCC with overall responsibility for implementing our policy is:

They will ensure that:

- The standards set out in this policy are implemented and maintained
- Where necessary, specialist health and safety assistance is obtained
- Any hazards reported to them are rectified immediately
- Only competent persons carry out repairs, modifications, inspections and tests
- Any accidents are investigated, recorded and reported if necessary
- Relevant health and safety documents and records are retained
- They keep up to date on health and safety matters relevant to the church
- Set a personal example on matters of health and safety.

2. The Churchwardens have day-to-day responsibility for implementing our policy.

They will ensure that:

- All employees and volunteers are aware of their health and safety responsibilities
- Adequate precautions are taken as set out in this policy and related risk assessments
- Adequate information and training are provided for those that need it
- Any hazards or complaints are investigated and dealt with as soon as possible
- Where defects cannot be corrected immediately, interim steps are taken to prevent danger
- All accidents are reported in-line with the requirements of this policy
- Advice is sought where clarification is necessary on the implementation of this policy
- Set a personal example on matters of health and safety.

3. All employees and volunteers have a responsibility to cooperate in the implementation of this policy and to take reasonable care of themselves and others while on church business or premises.

They will ensure that they:

- Read this policy and understand what is required of them
- Complete their work taking any necessary precautions to protect themselves and others
- Comply with any safety rules, operating instructions and other working procedures
- Report any hazard, defect or damage, so that this might be dealt with
- Warn any new employees or volunteers of known hazards
- Attend any training required to enable them to carry out their duties safely
- Do not undertake any repair or modification unless they are competent to do so
- Report any accident
- Do not misuse anything provided in the interests of health and safety.

ARRANGEMENTS

This section sets out our general arrangements for managing health and safety.

RISK ASSESSMENT

We will complete risk assessments to identify what we need to do to comply with health and safety law. We will record our findings, implementing any necessary precautions. We will review and revise these where we suspect that they are no longer valid.

INFORMATION AND TRAINING

We will provide any necessary information and training for our employees and volunteers in a timely manner. We will keep a record of what is provided. We will also give relevant information to contractors and self-employed people who may need this to complete their work safely.

FIRST AID

We will provide adequate first aid facilities including – as a minimum – a suitably stocked first aid

box in all buildings and a person who will take charge of the first aid arrangements. We will also provide relevant information for employees and volunteers.

ACCIDENT REPORTING

We will keep an accident book in each church building and record details therein. We will report to the enforcing authority and keep records of certain accidents to employees, volunteers and members of the public in accordance with the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations.

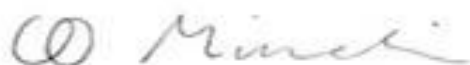
MONITORING

We will make periodic checks to ensure that our precautions remain effective and adequate. We will also ensure that any lifting, work or electrical equipment and church utilities are inspected as necessary to ensure that they remain safe. We will keep records of the checks we make.

CONTRACTORS

If we employ contractors, we make sure that they have their own health & safety policy and Public and Employers Liability insurance by asking to see copies of the relevant documents.

Signed on behalf of Benwell and Scotswood Team PCC, 25th May 2025



The Revd Christopher Minchin
Team Vicar for Mission
Vice-Chair, Benwell and Scotswood PCC

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting of the Benwell and Scotswood Team Parish 2024.
12.00noon, Sunday 19 May 2024 at St James
51 in attendance.
Report distributed at meeting.

1. Opening Prayer

Opening prayer was led by David Kirkwood

2. Apologies for Absence

Joyce Cuthbertson, Joan Flood, Douglas Hayes, Dee Humphries, Anne Marr, Derek Marr, Brenda McCutcheon, Olive Taylor, Margaret Wild

3. Meeting for the Election of Church Wardens

Church Wardens proposed and elected.

St James: Michael Allan Keller, Julius Mathew Ijafaye

Venerable Bede: Kathleen McIntyre

St Johns: Shirley Irving

St Margarets: Brenda McCutcheon, Grace Evelyn Thomson

Chris Foskett is now caretaker at St James. Kathy Germain stood down as wared for Venerable Bede.

4. Minutes of the Meeting 22 May 2022

The Minutes of 28 May 2023 were agreed as a true record and signed.

5. Matter Arising

Shirley Irving incorrectly typed as Shirley Irvine,

6. Election of representatives to DCCs

DCCs are now only required to meet annually.

St Johns has 6 candidates and chooses to meet more often, representatives have been elected.

7. Election of Representatives to PCC

David Kirkwood explained structure of PCC as follows:

Church wardens

2 representatives from each church

3 representatives elected to Deanery Synod

Clergy

Readers

The following were proposed and elected:

St James, Francesa Stockdale

Venerable Bede: James Garratt, Donna Germain

St Johns: Chris Libby, Joyce Cuthbertson

St Margarets: Jill Sorley

Deanery Synod: Carol Davison, Mike Keller

Reader: Kathy Germain

Refugee and Asylum Representatives: Invitations welcome

All candidates proposed, unanimously agreed and elected.

8. Appointment of Independent Examiner/Auditor

Justine Beer was thanked for her work and re-appointed.

9. Electoral Roll Report

St James: 68 names (16 additions)

St Johns: 18 names (4 removals)

St Margarets: 22 names
Venerable Bede 17 names
Parish total 125 names, overall increase 12.

10. Team Rector Report

David Kirkwood summarised his written report which was available to read at the meeting. Advised by Steve Forster (consultant) to tell our story better; it was an inspirational report detailing parish successes and achievements.

David Kirkwood also announced his forthcoming retirement. He was thanked for his work over the years and wished a happy future.

11. Team Vicar Report

Team Vicar report was available to read at meeting and was summarised by Chris Minchin

12. Church Warden Reports (including Fabric News, Goods and Ornaments)

Church Warden reports available to read at meeting and summarised by Mike Keller, Shirley Irving, Grace Thomson and Kathy Germain.

13. PCC Sectary Report

Report available to read at meeting.

14. Safeguarding Report

Safeguarding continues to be a priority for the PCC and parish. Training for PCC members is a required level. Safeguarding Dashboard is now supplemented with Safeguarding HubFull report available to read at meeting.

Safeguarding Officer Brenda McCutcheon

Assistant Safeguarding Officer Kathy Germain

Assistant Safeguarding Officer Mike Keller

15. Deanery Synod Report

Report available to read at meeting. Chris Minchin intends to join Deanery Synod

16. Financial Report including Financial Statements of PCC.

The Financial report and financial statements of PCC were available to be read at meeting and presented by Chris Libby. James Garratt offered to answer any questions and indicated willingness to discuss financial matters at any time. Proposed and unanimously agreed.

17. AOB

Food Bank is undertaking long term lease of Venerable Bede hall. The church building will require some improvements so that community bookings can continue in that building.

18. Closing Prayer

David Kirkwood closed meeting with Grace.

Signed.....

Date.....

St James' Benwell
St John's Benwell Village
St Margaret's Scotswood
Venerable Bede West Road



benwellscotswood.com

  @benwellscotswood



Benwell and Scotswood Team Parish Income, Expenditure and Funds 2024

Money in

	S James	Ven Bede	S John	S Margaret	Common	TOTAL 2024	TOTAL 2023
Planned giving	5,915	4,842	2,919	2,347	200	16,223	18,383
Collections at services	315	436	1,106	200	0	2,057	4,600
All other giving	2,214	824	367	40	468	3,913	5,267
Gift Aid	38	1,306	10	10	10	1,374	5,462
Grants and legacies	41,194	621	0	10,000	20,960	72,775	54,958
Fundraising	1,257	0	8,026	0	0	9,283	11,279
Fees and rentals	1,915	9,048	174	27,940	188	39,264	39,154
Investments	688	212	841	0	0	1,741	1,319
Other income	0	0	441	0	0	441	0
TOTAL	53,535	17,288	13,884	40,537	21,826	147,070	140,420
Transfers within team	0	0	0	0	20,960	20,960	32,658
TOTAL minus transfers within Team	53,535	17,288	13,884	40,537	866	126,110	107,762

Money out

	S James	Ven Bede	S John	S Margaret	Common	TOTAL 2024	TOTAL 2023
Diocesan parish share	0	0	0	0	12,400	12,400	16,800
Staff salaries and expenses	0	0	0	0	344	344	4,465
Charitable giving	7,200	164	0	0	200	7,564	1,627
Transfers within Team (incl. to Common Func	5,208	7,836	6,108	1,808	0	20,960	26,117
Other mission payments	420	533	0	0	153	1,106	10,525
Church services	1,051	104	72	309	122	1,659	2,313
Insurance	8,700	3,794	738	3,774	0	17,007	14,938
Church upkeep	8,580	2,894	668	3,952	2,151	18,245	27,007
Utilities	5,967	5,126	689	13,767	6,416	31,965	28,093
Costs of fundraising	706	0	0	0	0	706	2,769
Major building / repair	31,993	0	301	11,876	321	44,491	8,609
TOTAL	69,826	20,452	8,576	35,486	22,107	156,448	143,263
Transfers within Team	5,208	7,836	6,108	1,808	0	20,960	28,467
TOTAL minus transfers within Team	64,618	12,616	2,468	33,678	22,107	135,488	114,796

Money remaining on 31 December 2024

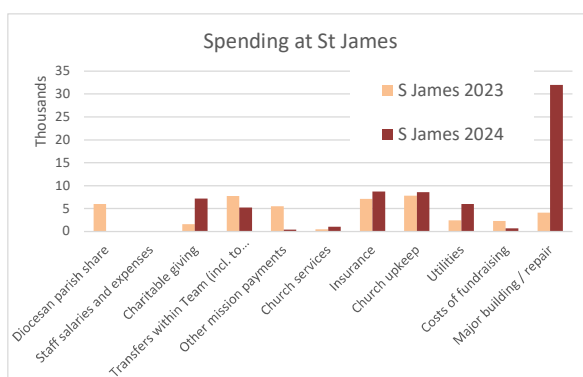
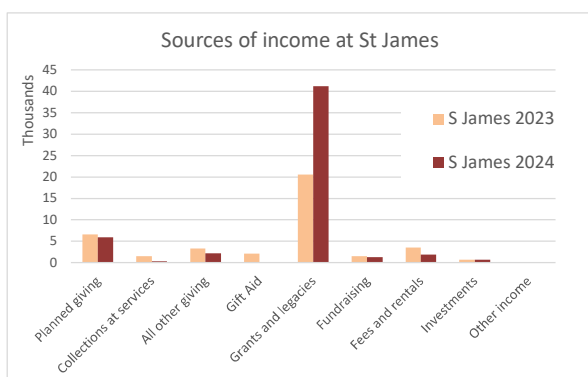
	S James	Ven Bede	S John	S Margaret	Common	TOTAL 2024	TOTAL 2023
General access funds	3,036	19,671	17,804	19,803	7,325	67,638	67,270
Restricted funds	2,831	0	20,351	0	0	23,183	32,929
TOTAL	5,867	19,671	38,155	19,803	7,325	90,821	100,199

This has been a financially challenging year for the Benwell and Scotswood Team. The total income was just over £128,000, an increase from the previous year of around £11,000. The expenses also rose by £22,000, meaning that our financial position at the end of the year is weaker than it was at the start of the year.

We were pleased to pay our full parish share in 2024. The areas of notable expenditure are insurance (£17,000), church upkeep (£18,000) and utility bills (£32,000). There have been some major repairs required, costing £47,000.

Our income from all sources of voluntary giving (planned, collections and other giving) has declined from £28,000 to £24,000. In the autumn, we celebrated generosity and launched our membership of the Parish Giving Scheme. We are confident that this will help to reverse that decline. We had 31 individual planned givers during 2024. Some people gave to more than one of the churches. Our gift aid recovered was lower than in previous years because only one church put in a full claim. Catching up on this is a priority for 2025. We plan to re-validate all gift aid data in 2025 and use our new position as a registered charity to become more consistent with our claims. Our membership of the Parish Giving Scheme will help to improve our regular income from Gift Aid.

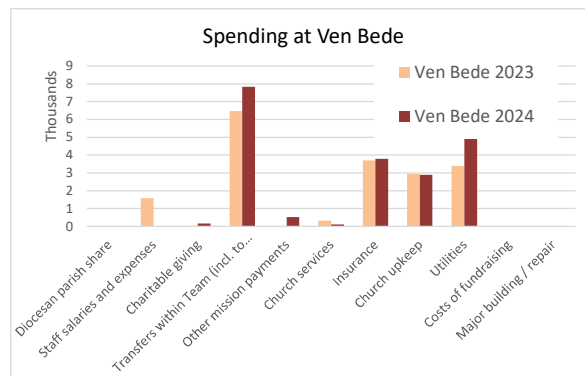
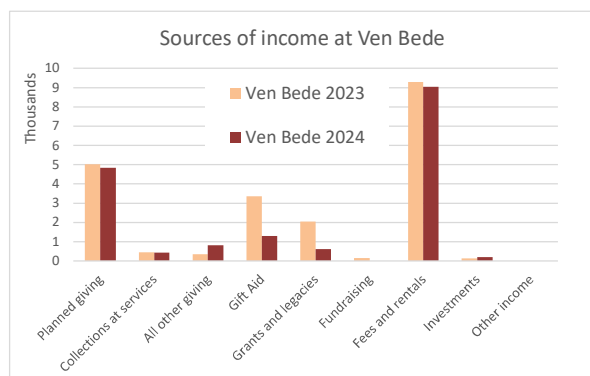
Analysis of finance for St James and Ven Bede (2023 and 2024)



Money remaining at St James at the end of the year

year	2023	2024
General access funds	£4,190	£3,036
Restricted funds	£17,968	£2,831
Total funds	£22,158	£5,867

St James has required substantial repairs during 2024. Much of this has been paid by grant funding, but we have also used a considerable portion of our reserves. The grants that we have received include £10,000 from our own Gladys Plews legacy, so it is not new money from outside. All other sources of income have declined. Nearly all costs have increased. The total funds at St James at the end of the year represent less than 2 months-worth of regular expenses.

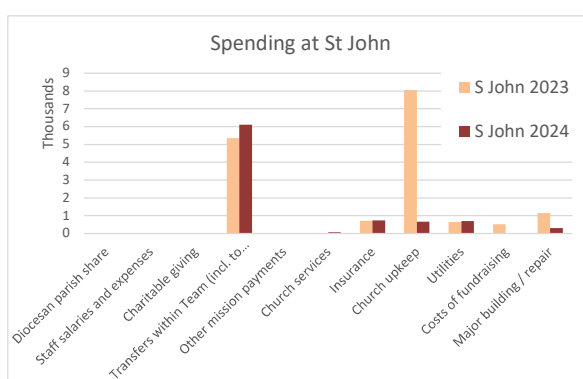
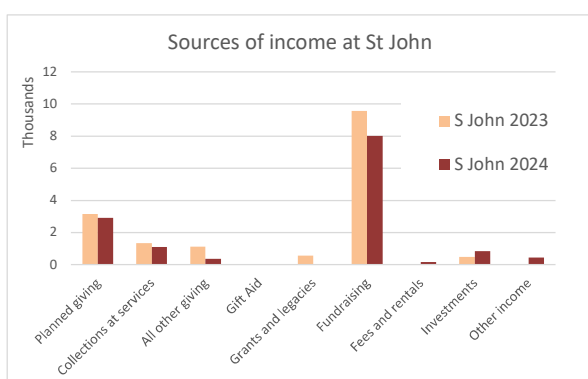


Money remaining at Ven Bede at the end of the year

year	2023	2024
General access funds	£22,505	£19,671
Restricted funds	£330	£0
Total funds	£22,836	£19,671

The Ven Bede has spent more money than it has brought in during 2024. The income from voluntary giving has remained steady, but other sources of income have declined. The income from rental (mainly the Food Bank) remains the largest source of income. Most costs have gone up, notably the transfers within the team to the Common Fund and the utilities. The funds remaining at the end of the year is enough to cover approximately 1 year of expenses.

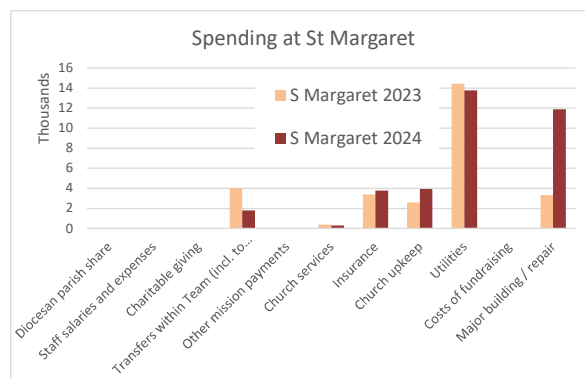
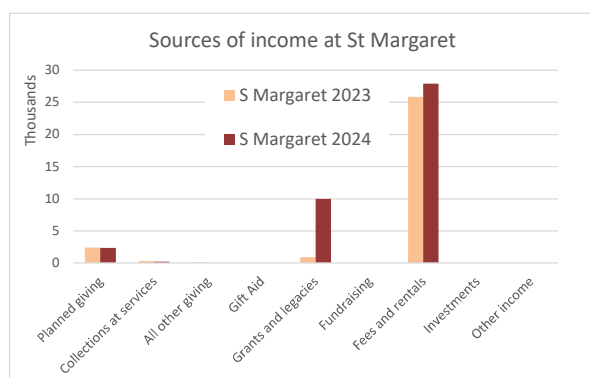
Analysis of finance for St John and St Margaret (2023 and 2024)



Money remaining at St John at the end of the year

year	2023	2024
General access funds	£18,284	£17,804
Restricted funds	£14,564	£20,351
Total funds	£32,848	£38,155

St John has continued to be very effective with fundraising and this makes up more than half the total income. Giving has declined slightly from the previous year. The biggest single cost is the payment to the Common Fund. The maintenance of the building is another important expense. In 2023, there were some improvements made to the building, hence the large expense on upkeep. By the end of 2024, the available funds had increased by £5000 to £38,000.

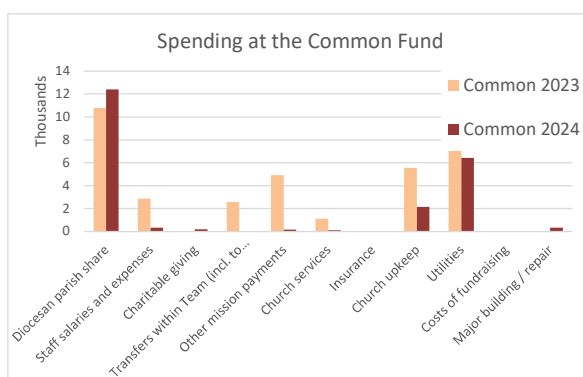
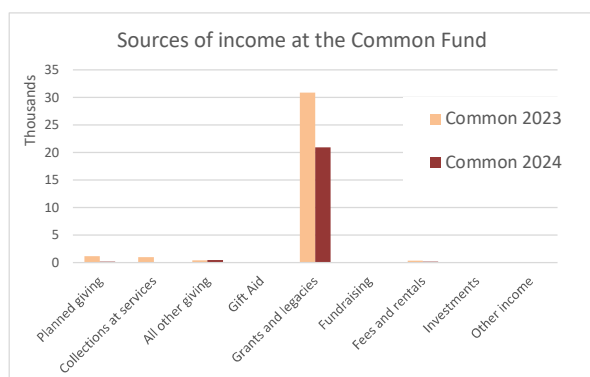


Money remaining at St Margaret at the end of the year

year	2023	2024
General access funds	£14,752	£19,803
Restricted funds	£0	£0
Total funds	£14,752	£19,803

The main source of income at St Margaret continues to be the room hire for the Nursery and Changing Lives. Also in 2024, St Margaret received a £10,000 grant from the Gladys Plews legacy, to help pay for a new heating control panel. There has been no change to planned giving. The main cost continues to be utilities (mainly gas) to keep the building warm. By the end of the year, the available funds at St Margaret had increased by £5,000 to £20,000.

Analysis of finance for the Common Fund (2023 and 2024)



Money remaining at Common Fund at the end of the year

year	2023	2024
General access funds	£7,539	£7,325
Restricted funds	£67	£0
Total funds	£7,606	£7,325

The Common Fund had very little income other than the grants from the individual churches. These grants had decline from the previous year as not every church was able to meet the request. However, the costs from the Common Fund declined dramatically. The only significant costs were the diocesan parish share and the utilities (Council Tax and Water for the vicarages). The funds available at the end of the year were maintained.

Benwell And Scottswood Team Parish
Summary statements
Year ended 31 December 2024

	St James	St James	St James	St James	St James	Ven Bede	Ven Bede
	Unrestricted	Unrestricted	Restricted	Restricted	Restricted	Unrestricted	Restricted
	General	Music	Missions	Development	Something Wonderful	General	Mission
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
INCOME							
Voluntary giving							
Planned giving							
Direct payments	5,705		60			4,482	
Envelopes							
PGS	150					360	
Collections at services	315					396	40
All other giving and voluntary receipts							
Special appeals					170		
Flowers							
General giving	975				1,069	824	
Gift Aid recovered	38					1,306	
Legacies received (capital value)							
Grants							
Grants from outside	10,130			25,064	6,000		
Transfer within team							
Activities for generating funds							
Fundraising activities (gross proceeds)							
Fetes and bazaars							
Special events					1,257		
Income from investments							
Dividends, interest, income from property etc.		617		71		212	
Church activities							
Fees retained by PCC (weddings, funerals etc.)							
Trading activities (gross proceeds), NOT fundraising							
Hall rental	1,915					9,048	
Church rental							
Other incoming resources							
Other receipts/income not already listed							
TOTAL INCOME	19,226	617	60	25,135	8,496	16,627	40
Costs of generating funds							
Costs of fundraising activities					706		
Church activities							
Mission giving and donations	5,423		1,777				164
Diocesan parish share contribution							
Salaries, wages and honoraria							
Clergy and staff expenses							
Church expenses							
Mission and evangelism costs							
Transfer within team	5,208					7,836	
Paid outside team					420		
Church running expenses (including governance)							
Ceremonial costs	337	714				104	
Insurance	8,700					3,794	
Repairs and maintenance	108				8,472	2,894	
Other church running expenses							
Church utility bills							
Council tax					5,739	4,387	
Water, light and heat					229	409	
Telephone and internet							
Costs of trading							
Major capital expenditure							
Major repairs to the church building				31,993			
Major repairs to church hall/other PCC property							
New building work to the church, church hall etc.							
Other expenditure							
Other payments/expenditure not already listed							
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	19,776	714	1,777	31,993	15,566	19,425	164

Ven Bede	Ven Bede	St Johns	St Johns	St Margarets	Common Fund	Common Fund	Total Restricted	Total Unrestricted	Total
Restricted Gladys Plews £	Restricted NBYP £	Unrestricted General £	Restricted Building £	Unrestricted General £	Unrestricted General £	Restricted Farsi £	£	£	£
		2,889		2,307	160		0	0	0
							60	15,543	15,603
		30		40	40		0	0	0
		1,106		200			0	620	620
							40	2,017	2,057
							0	0	0
					80		170	80	250
		10		40			0	50	50
		357			388		1,069	2,544	3,613
		10		10	10		0	1,374	1,374
							0	0	0
							0	0	0
	621			10,000			31,685	20,130	51,815
					20,960		0	20,960	20,960
							0	0	0
							0	0	0
		5,369					0	5,369	5,369
		2,084					0	2,084	2,084
		573					1,257	573	1,830
							0	0	0
							0	0	0
		53	788				858	882	1,741
							0	0	0
					108		0	108	108
							0	0	0
		174		27,940	80		0	39,156	39,156
							0	0	0
							0	0	0
		441					0	0	0
							0	441	441
0	621	13,096	788	40,537	21,826	0	35,139.08	111,931	147,070
							0	0	0
							706	0	706
							0	0	0
							0	0	0
					200		1,942	5,623	7,564
					12,400		0	12,400	12,400
							0	0	0
					344		0	344	344
							0	0	0
							0	0	0
							0	0	0
		6,108		1,808			0	20,960	20,960
	533				86	67	1,019	86	1,106
							0	0	0
		72		309	122		0	1,659	1,659
		738		3,774			0	17,007	17,007
		329		3,476	1,071		8,472	7,877	16,350
		340		475	1,080		0	1,896	1,896
							0	0	0
					5,053		0	5,053	5,053
		689		13,767	1,146		5,739	19,989	25,728
330					216		559	625	1,184
							0	0	0
							0	0	0
							0	0	0
				11,876			31,993	11,876	43,869
							0	0	0
							0	0	0
							0	0	0
							0	0	0
		301			321		0	622	622
330	533	8,576	0	35,486	22,041	67	50,430	106,017	156,448

Benwell And Scottswood Team Parish
Cash summary
Year ended 31 December 2024

	St James £	Ven Bede £	St Johns £	St Margarets	Common Fund £	Total £
Balances at 1 Jan 2024						
Bank current account	8,485.21	8,759.29	14,722.27	15,751.66	7,605.85	55,324.28
Bank Deposit account	6,021.97	14,076.39	3,512.71			23,611.07
Bank Deposit (Second)	7,651.08		0.89			7,651.97
Bank Deposit (Third)						0.00
CBF Diocesan Deposit Scheme A			14,558.76			14,558.76
CBF Diocesan Deposit Scheme B			4.98			4.98
Cash	0.00	0.00	47.97			47.97
	22,158.26	22,835.68	32,847.58	15,751.66	7,605.85	101,199.03
Balances at 31 Dec 2024						
Bank current account	3,596.43	5,383.05	14,237.22	20,707.53	7,324.95	51,249.18
Bank Deposit account	0.00	14,288.15	3,565.55			17,853.70
Bank Deposit (Second)	2,270.67		0.89			2,271.56
Bank Deposit (Third)						0.00
CBF Diocesan Deposit Scheme A			20,346.28			20,346.28
CBF Diocesan Deposit Scheme B			5.24			5.24
Cash	0.00					0.00
	5,867.10	19,671.20	38,155.18	20,707.53	7,324.95	91,725.96
Change in monetary asset value						-9,473.07
check						-95.14

Benwell And Scottswood Team Parish
Funds summary
Year ended 31 December 2024

			Opening balance	Receipts	Expenditure	Transfers in	Transfers out	Closing balance
St James	Unrestricted	General	3,862.61	19,226.16	19,775.89	0.00	508.58	2,804.30
St James	Unrestricted	Music	327.42	617.46	713.56	0.00	0.00	231.32
St James	Restricted	Missions	1,208.70	60.00	1,777.28	508.58	0.00	0.00
St James	Restricted	Development	7,651.08	25,135.29	31,992.90	0.00	0.00	793.47
St James	Restricted	Something Wonderful	9,108.45	8,495.63	15,566.07	0.00	0.00	2,038.01
Ven Bede	Unrestricted	General	22,425.21	16,627.17	19,424.90	88.00	44.28	19,671.20
Ven Bede	Unrestricted	Mission	79.98	40.00	164.26	44.28	0.00	0.00
Ven Bede	Restricted	Gladys Plews	330.49	0.00	330.49	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ven Bede	Restricted	NBYP	0.00	620.64	532.64	0.00	88.00	0.00
St Johns	Unrestricted	General	18,283.84	13,096.32	8,576.24	0.00	5,000.00	17,803.92
St Johns	Restricted	Building	14,563.74	787.52	0.00	5,000.00	0.00	20,351.26
St Margarets	Unrestricted	General	14,751.66	40,537.28	35,486.27	0.00	0.00	19,802.67
Common Fund	Unrestricted	General	7,539.10	21,826.38	22,040.53	0.00	0.00	7,324.95
Common Fund	Restricted	Farsi	66.75	0.00	66.75	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Restricted			32,929.21	35,099.08	50,266.13	5,508.58	88.00	23,182.74
Total Unrestricted			67,269.82	111,970.77	106,181.65	132.28	5,552.86	67,638.36
Total			100,199.03	147,069.85	156,447.78	5,640.86	5,640.86	90,821.10

Benwell And Scottswood Team Parish
Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Monetary assets				
Barclays Community	7,325	43,924	51,249	54,324
Barclays Savings		0	0	0
Barclays Premium		20,125	20,125	31,263
CBF	0	20,352	20,352	14,564
cash		0	0	48
	<u>7,325</u>	<u>84,401</u>	<u>91,726</u>	<u>100,199</u>
Investment assets (at market value)				
Gladys Plews BEQ - Investment Fund	0	117,595	117,595	114,964
Gladys Plews BEQ - Deposit	0	17,364	17,364	32,539
Scott Legacy	0	22,753	22,753	22,244
	<u>0</u>	<u>157,712</u>	<u>157,712</u>	<u>169,746</u>
Other monetary assets				
Accrued interest on investments			0	0
Liabilities				
Independent examiner's fee	900		900	900
	<u>900</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>900</u>	<u>900</u>

Note

St James' Development fund had a closing balance of £ 2,270.67

Benwell And Scottswood Team Parish
Notes to the financial statements

1. The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the R&P basis.
2. A statement of monetary assets for each church is detailed below:

Statement of Monetary Assets as at 31 December 2024

	<u>Unrestricted</u> <u>Common</u> <u>Fund</u> <u>£</u>	<u>Restricted to the individual churches</u>					<u>Total</u> <u>restricted</u>	<u>Total assets</u> <u>£</u>
		<u>St James</u> <u>£</u>	<u>Mission</u> <u>£</u>	<u>Venerable</u> <u>Bede</u> <u>£</u>	<u>St Johns</u> <u>£</u>	<u>St Margarets</u> <u>£</u>		
Barclays Community	7,325	3,596	0	5,383	14,237	20,708	43,924	51,249
Barclays Savings					1		1	1
Barclays Premium		2,271		14,288	3,566		20,124	20,124
CBF					20,352		20,352	20,352
Cash					0		0	0
	<u>7,325</u>	<u>5,867</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>19,671</u>	<u>38,155</u>	<u>20,708</u>	<u>84,401</u>	<u>91,726</u>

91,726

Newcastle Diocesan Society hold two trust funds with market values of £117,595.12 and a deposit account totalling £17,363.86 on behalf of the PCC.
There is also a Trust fund for Benwell Scott Legacy, held by Newcastle Diocesan Society, with a market value of £ 22,752.74, market value has reduced this year.

0.00

Both the capital and income from the larger trust fund and the deposit account are available for such religious and/or charitable purposes in the parish of Benwell as the Diocesan Society shall in their absolute discretion think fit, with the desire, without imposing any trust or binding obligation, that in exercising their discretion they should apply such capital and income for such purposes within the said parish of Benwell as may be directed by the DCC of the Venerable Bede (per the Trust document).

For the smaller trust fund, both 50% of the capital and the income is available to the parish for the choir/music group and 50% of the capital to the Diocesan Board of Finance towards clergy stipend, as agreed with the parish.

NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN SOCIETY

Annual Trust Fund Statement

019H/BENWELL:SCOTT LEGACY

This is the financial statement of the above fund, held by the Newcastle Diocesan Society as Custodian Trustee, as at 31 December 2024.

Investments	No of shares	Market Value
Capital	984.00	22,752.74
Income	0.00	0.00
For Information only		
Disbursements from investments		0
Deposits	-	Value
Capital	-	
Income	-	
For Information only		
Interest received	-	
Dividend received		
Disbursements from deposit		

Income paid direct

Both 50% of the capital, and the income is available to the parish for the choir/music group and 50% of the capital to the Diocesan Board of Finance towards clergy stipend, as agreed with the parish.

The above information should be recorded in your annual accounts

NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN SOCIETY

Annual Trust Fund Statement

019H/BENWELL:GLADYS PLEWS BEQ

This is the financial statement of the above fund, held by the Newcastle Diocesan Society as Custodian Trustee, as at 31 December 2024.

Investments	No of shares	Market Value
Capital	5,085.70	117,595.12
Income	0.00	0.00
For Information only		
Disbursements from investments		0
Deposits	-	Value
Capital	-	
Income	-	17,363.86
For Information only		
Interest received	-	1,633.72
Dividend received		3,191.29
Disbursements from deposit		20,000.00

Both the capital and income are available for such religious and/or charitable purposes in the parish of Benwell as the Diocesan Society shall in their absolute discretion think fit, with the desire, without imposing any trust or binding obligation, that in exercising their discretion they should apply such capital and income for such purposes within the said parish of Benwell as may be directed by the DCC of the Venerable Bede. (Extract from the Trust document).

The above information should be recorded in your annual accounts

**Independent Examiner's Report
to the PCC of Benwell & Scotswood Team Parish, Newcastle upon Tyne**

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are set out on pages 1 to 11, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and section 43 of the Charities Act 1993 ('the Act').

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. You consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and section 43(2) of the Act do not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of this report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 43(7)(b) of the Act and to be found in the *Church Guidance*, 2006 edition, issued by the Finance Division of the Archbishops' Council. That 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 financial statements and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.


Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
 - to prepare financial statements, which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations

have not been met; or

- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



16/05/2025

Justine Beer **FCCA**
3 Bevan Court
Hepscott park
Morpeth
NE61 6FH