



2023

Trustees Annual Report

St Oswald's Hauxwell

(Reporting on the calendar year 2022)

Aims and purposes

St Oswald's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend Robin David Christopher Lawton, in promoting the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of St Oswald's Church, Crakehall.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and Scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

In particular, we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

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

To facilitate this work, it is important that we maintain the fabric of the church of St Oswald's.

Achievements and performance

Worship and prayer

The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and the benefice, to which St Oswald's church belongs.

The PCC is proud of our Book of common Prayer (BCP) heritage and reflecting this most of our services are in this traditional language and format. We recognise that this will not suit all and are keen to promote worship across the benefice where a range of services are offered, for example, Morning Prayer, Simply Together and other family service. These along with our Mid-week and Sunday Holy Communion services provide a wide variety of worship styles. T.O.A.S.T. 'Café style Church' that meets in Hunton Village Hall on 5th Sundays is a Fresh Expression seeking to include those who would not normally join in Sunday Worship services. Services with the offer of prayer for healing, Patronal services, services to mark the Agricultural year, along with services such as; Vigils and Compline at specific occasions during the church year are also offered. During the period of Covid St Oswald's church and the Benefice has also facilitated the attendance of a range of services through PhoneChurch. This continues with a regular PhoneChurch service enabling those unable to attend a service in person, able to participate over the phone.

As well as our regular services, we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. Through baptism we thank God for the gift of life; in marriage, public vows are exchanged with God's blessing; through funeral services friends and family express their grief and give thanks for the life that is now complete in this world and commend the person into God's keeping.

There were no baptisms at St Oswald's this year.

In July we welcomed Fred and Olivia Moore their families and friends at their Wedding.

We held funeral services for:

- ✦ David Cook in May
- ✦ Derrick Henry Lawson in July

Following an easing of Covid-19 restrictions following a discussion with the benefice council the Rector reintroduced the common cup at communion. This was well received, and assurances were given to those who wished to keep receiving only the bread that this had always been a normal practice in the Anglican Church for those who needed special provision.

Following the death of Her Late Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, St Oswald's was opened to provide a place of welcome and peace for villagers to gather, be supported and comforted in their grief and prayers or memories written and shared.

In October we held a harvest service of thanksgiving and this year we supported the work of the Addington Fund who had kindly loaned us 'Tractor Jack' for the Hunton Steam Fair and who stayed for several months. Jack visited several of the Churches in the Benefice and was much admired by the schoolchildren at their harvest festival. With the Rector driving 'Jack' led the funeral procession from Crakehall to Bedale for Malcolm Gill's funeral, with Stuart Shield on a matching 'Little Grey Fergie'.

We held our usual Christmas service of Lessons and Carol service enjoyed by all those who attended and with much thanks to Rosi and the Choir.

On the third Thursday of the month, there is a Prayer Meeting via PhoneChurch. This is when special Prayers are offered for healing and the Prayer list is updated.

Church Fabric Report

The fabric of the church building remains in a delicate but sound condition except for the Chancel roof. The roof was stripped of its traditional lead covering in the late 1960's. A temporary bitumen covering was applied however this is now well beyond its predicted 25-year life. Although several solutions have been attempted to maintain the water proofing of the roof this has now totally failed and serious water ingress is now causing damage to the roof structure, the chancel walls and fittings. This has led to our inspecting architect requesting that St Oswald's be placed on the heritage at risk register. We are working with the local community to find a way to raise funds to facilitate a repair project that we estimate will cost in the region of £70,000.

Regular maintenance of the church building and the churchyard has been completed. A new stock fence was installed across the old part of the South graveyard to facilitate our aim of reducing our carbon emissions by grazing this area. We are extremely thankful to Sir Richard for his generous assistance with the fence.

Mission and evangelism

Along with the other parishes in our benefice we have been able to reach out to our community on a number of occasions throughout the year at events such as.

- Platinum Jubilee Events
- Village Fetes
- The Wensleydale Agricultural Show
- Hunton Steam Gathering

In May, Grace and Simon Stretton Downes came home for a visit from Liberia where they are serving with Serving In Mission (SIM) an international, interdenominational Evangelical Christian mission organization. Simon is leading a Dental project and Grace assisting with the Nursing provision at the ELWA site. They gave a presentation at St Andrew's Finghall at a gathered Benefice Service.

Rev'd Chris continued his role as a chaplain to the Agricultural Community through his membership of the 'Agricultural Chaplains Association' & Yorkshire Churches Rural Business Support'. Principally this is through the Mart at Leyburn but also through visits to individual farms and businesses as well as through advocacy on farming issues. Rev'd Chris also sits as a board member on several local charities and supports the deanery and diocese in active membership of the Area Mission and Pastoral Committee and the Leeds Board of Patronage.

Safeguarding

There were no safeguarding issues to report.

Only one current members of the PCC held valid DBS check, three are still outstanding their certification and have not fully completed the safeguarding training. This falls short of the recommended best practice by the Diocese, the House of Bishops, and the Charity Commission. This is also a standard requirement from most grant funding bodies and therefore could bar the church from receiving the much-needed grants needed to repair the Chancel roof.

Financial review

Our annual accounts have been prepared using the Receipts and Payments method. This report illustrates our financial position at our year-end 31st December 2022.

Total receipts £ 8,050

Total payments £ 3,582

Our total financial assets at the end of the year were £21,689.

Comprising

Barclays Current Account £16,260

Investment Fund shares £ 5,430

Income

Whilst at first sight these figures appear to be healthy, they are not giving a full picture of the financial reality facing the Parish. Giving has returned to pre-pandemic norms, however with an extremely small congregation giving at regular services is still falling far short of our need. Regular planned giving often provides the financial stability for parishes to both budget and survive and represents a large proportion of the total income for most parishes. However, at Hauxwell, it represents just under 11% and had we not received very generous donations at the two funerals this year, for which we are extremely grateful, the financial position would have been much worse.

Expenditure

This year the Diocesan Share request was £5,544, however, the PCC did not feel able to make any payments toward this and our historic share deficit now stands at £8,584.

Whilst these requests are voluntary failure to keep up to date with them is a strong indication of the viability of a parish and can have consequences when seeking to appoint ministers in the future. The total Diocesan share request almost exactly matches the cost of providing ministers for all parishes and so continued failure to contribute will inevitably lead to fewer ministers being available. For more information about the Diocesan Share system please visit the Leeds Diocesan website.

Our expenditure of £3,582 is mostly for the running costs and maintenance of the building with the largest single cost being the insurance bill at £1,450. A full breakdown of our financial statements and independent examination are to be found in [Appendix 1](#).

Reserves policy

It is PCC policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds that equates to at least three months of unrestricted payments. This is equivalent to £896. It is held to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet emergencies. The cash balance of £ 16,260 held in unrestricted funds at the year-end fell well above this level; however, we are due a Quinquennial Inspection in 2023 (£800). The PCC is very conscious of the need to build a reserve to cover the urgent work on the church building.

Volunteers

We would like to thank all volunteers who make our Church the place of peace and rest that it is and in particular the Keatings who do so much to maintain the building and support the worship and mission of the church.

Deanery Synod Wensley Deanery Synod Report

As there are no lay member elected it is just incumbent who represents the PCC at the Deanery Synod, there remains one lay vacancy. This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the Church.

This year has been dominated by a discussion of net zero carbon and environmental issues. The aim was to allow the subject to be thoroughly discussed with feedback from PCCs, and actions undertaken. The actions needs to continue if we are to reach net zero by 2030 and the feedback was patchy and so the relation between deanery and PCCs needs to be worked on.

This year has seen us continue with a nearly full complement of clergy. The only gap being the curate post in Lower Swale which remains unfilled. Throughout the year the Deanery Synod met five times

- 16th February 2022 Zoom
- 4th May 2022 in person at Chantry Hall in Bedale for a prophetic talk by Bishop Helen Anne
- 7th June 2022 in person at St. Michael's Church, Kirklington
- 14th September 2022 in person at St Matthew's Church Leyburn
- 15th November 2022 by Zoom

There have been presentations by

1. Environmental and Zero Carbon Plan – Rev'd Jeff Payne
2. Bishop Helen Anne – What it means to be a Rural Church
3. Rev'd Jeff Payne and Jemima Parker, Diocese Environment Officer on the diocesan Environmental and Zero Carbon Plan.
4. Dave Bookless from A Rocha International on the Theology of Environmental Care
5. Anne Readshaw about biodiversity
6. There have been discussions on
7. Environmental and Zero Carbon Plans
8. Feedback from PCCs on the environment

The following Deanery events were undertaken:

- Ascension Day Open Air joint service with the Methodists at Jervaulx Abbey Thursday 26th May
- Members of the deanery supported the Wensleydale show with the Church on Show Stand

Structure, governance and management

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St Oswald's the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent, churchwarden and members elected by those who are on the electoral roll of the church.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish, including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. New members receive initial training into the workings of the PCC.

The AMP & APCM was held on May 23rd 2022. Each month, there have been Leader's meeting/Conference calls via PhoneChurch or meeting in person at St Gregory's to link PCCs across the Benefice.

Administrative information

St Oswald's Church is part of the Wensley Deanery in the Diocese of Leeds within the Church of England. The correspondence address is The Vicarage, Patrick Brompton, DL8 1JN. The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2020) and a charity currently excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

Ex-Officio Members

- The Incumbent Revd R D C Lawton
- Dyno Keatinge Churchwarden, Secretary, Treasurer & Electoral Roll Officer (til May 22)
- Rosi Keatinge - Churchwarden (til May 22)

Elected Members

- Rosi Keatinge
- Gay Forth
- Yvonne Cook (til May 22)
- Judith Gowland
- LockeyJoyce Audrey (til May 22)

Officer:

- Mr Paul Carnell, Treasurer

Electoral Roll

There were 15 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll, of whom 6 are not resident within the parish.

Trustees Annual Report Approval



Approved by the PCC on 10th May 2023
and signed on their behalf by the Reverend Chris Lawton (PCC chairman)

Appendix 1

Receipts and Payments Financial Statement

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2022 £	TOTAL 2021 £
RECEIPTS					
Voluntary Receipts:					
Planned giving		860	-	860	2,712
Collections at Services		2,765	-	2,765	2,240
All other giving/voluntary receipts	1a	1,391	-	1,391	1,992
Gift Aid recovered		1,258	-	1,258	721
		<u>6,274</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,274</u>	<u>7,665</u>
Activities for generating funds		240	-	240	-
Investment income		162	-	162	156
Church activities	1b	1,374	-	1,374	514
Other Receipts		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total receipts		<u>8,050</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,050</u>	<u>8,335</u>
PAYMENTS					
Church activities:					
Diocesan parish contribution		-	-	-	2,000
Clergy and staffing costs		302	-	302	122
Church running expenses	2a	2,568	-	2,568	1,561
Church Repairs & maintenance	2b	713	-	713	1,174
Mission giving and donations		-	-	-	61
		<u>3,582</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,582</u>	<u>4,918</u>
Cost of generating funds		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total payments		<u>3,582</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,582</u>	<u>4,918</u>
Excess of Receipts over Payments		4,468	0	4,468	3,417
Cash at bank and in hand at 1 January		<u>11,792</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>11,792</u>	<u>8,375</u>
Cash at bank and in hand at 31 December		<u>16,260</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>16,260</u>	<u>11,792</u>

Statement of assets and liabilities
as of 31st December 2022

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2022 £	TOTAL 2021 £
Cash Funds					
Barclays Current Account		16,260	-	16,260	11,792
		16,260	0	16,260	11,792
Investment Assets					
Investment Fund shares at bid market value		5,430	-	5,430	6,151
		21,689	0	21,689	17,943
Liabilities					
Outstanding Diocesan Parish contribution				5,544	3,040

Further Analysis of Receipts and Payments		Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2022 £	TOTAL 2021 £
Receipts					
1a All other giving/voluntary receipts					
Donations		941	-	941	2,240
Church Commissioners Energy Grant		450	-	450	-
		1,391	-	1,391	2,240
1b Church activities					
Fees for weddings		324	-	324	-
Fees for funerals		915	-	915	500
Fees for monuments		135	-	135	14
		1,374	-	1,374	514
2b Church running expenses					
Electricity		211	-	211	381
Insurance		1,450	-	1,450	1,407
Upkeep of services		70	-	70	-
Upkeep of Churchyard		640	-	640	830
Benefice expenses		164	-	164	-
Other church running expenses		33	-	33	61
		2,568	-	2,568	2,678
2c Church repairs and maintenance					
Regular maintenance		66	-	66	68
Fence		647	-	647	-
Small items		-	-	-	50
		713	-	713	118

Independent Examiner's Report

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2022, which are set out on pages 4 to 6 is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ("the Regulations") and Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

Respective responsibilities of trustees and independent 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 144 of the Act do not apply.

It is my responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. 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 consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, 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:

- i. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act and the Regulations have not been met; or
- ii. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Name: MA Warden

4 St Matthew's Terrace
Leyburn
N. Yorks
DL8 5EL



Date: 21/April/2023.

Appendix 2

Rectors Report

2022 was another challenging year for us in the Benefice, however we continued to faithfully fulfil our mission in service to the community and worship of God. As in 2021 we saw changes to the pattern of gathering due to the ongoing concerns over Covid-19, however as the year progressed people started to return to something like pre-pandemic norms. Numbers attending services significantly improved towards the end of the year and it was a joy to return to social gatherings again. As a benefice, we continue to grow together and for that I am deeply grateful. We made big strides in safeguarding training and certification and for that I am thankful to our PCC's and especially Julie. In terms of governance, we are still desperately short of officers and role holders and this is now a pressing need that must be addressed. I am once again thankful to all who come together to be the church here in Lower Wensleydale and recognise the immense privilege it is to continue to serve this community.