



Trustees Annual Report  
St Gregory's Crakehall  
For the Period January to December 2023

## **Aims and purposes.**

St Gregory'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 Gregory'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 particularly the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

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 Gregory's, Crakehall.

## **Achievements and performance**

### **Worship and prayer.**

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

The PCC is keen to offer a range of services during the month and over the course of the year, that our community find both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling. For example, Morning Prayer provides a quiet, intimate and reflective environment for worship whilst opportunities are provided for people to engage in different styles of worship through our well attended Simply Together family service. These, along with our mid-week and Holy Communion services provided at Crakehall for the whole Benefice, offer a comprehensive choice of worship. As part of the Benefice of Lower Wensleydale other services are available across the other five parish churches in the benefice, including Simply Together, Just Together, and T.O.A.S.T. Café Church. 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.

Our thanks go out to Sue our Reader, Rev'd Roy and Fr Philip for assisting the Rector in providing a regular pattern of worship.

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.

## Church Fabric Report

The clock remains inoperable. We continue to raise funds to repair it and await faculty permission to do the necessary work. We hope to complete this project in 2024.

As recommended in our latest Tree Condition Survey, pruning was completed. However, there are still major works as well as minor maintenance to complete.

Annual inspections have been made to the gas heaters and fire extinguishers and have been recorded.

The upper vestry room has been prepared to enable it to become a benefice office for a future administrator to work in.

The regular round of maintenance and certification was completed on the gas installation, the fire extinguishers, and the organ.

The portable microphones continue to prove problematic and these will need to be replaced in the next year.

## Mission and evangelism

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

- Village Fetes
- The Wensleydale Agricultural Show
- Hunton Steam Gathering

Rev'd Chris continued his role as a chaplain to the Agricultural Community through his membership of the 'Agricultural Chaplains Association' and 'Yorkshire Churches Rural Business Support'. Principally this is through the Mart at Leyburn but also includes visits to individual farms and businesses as well as 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.

## Youth Club

Youth Club is part of our mission to young people in our community and meets monthly throughout the year and relies on volunteers to run. Approximately 25 young people attend from years 6-9 at school.

The focus of a typical evening is centred around games and activities. Reflective moments and prayer remain part of our habit and the young people appear very comfortable with this set up. Tuck shop and social time encourages friends to catch up and enjoy each other's company in a safe, relaxed environment.

At Christmas, presents were wrapped, and cards written to unknown individuals and donated to Hambleton Food Bank. More than 30 gifts were distributed in the week before Christmas and thanks was received from the organisation.

With very little cost to run, we did apply to the Educational Trust for a sum to restock on some well-used equipment.

There have been no safeguarding issues to report in the year and all volunteers are trained and suitably qualified to work with young people (registered with the Safeguarding Officer with Enhanced DBS certificates); financial and attendance records are kept, as well as contact details in accordance with GDPR regulations and for auditing purposes. We are members of 'North Yorkshire Youth' receiving some support from the youth worker in return for submissions of data.

A simple traditional Youth Club, sharing the gospel message. Each time we meet young people and parents regularly express their gratitude and say, 'thank you'.

The Youth Group team are Louise Shepherd, Colin and Gilly Bartram, Peter Lohmeyer, Andrea Chapman, Harry Wilkins and Trevor Starkey.

## Safeguarding

There were no safeguarding issues to report.  
All members of the PCC held valid DBS checks.

## Fundraising Events

We are extremely grateful to Audrey Staniland who kindly opened her house and garden in August. Various stalls, games, refreshments, a tombola, and a raffle once again proved to be a great success raising money for the Clock Fund.

Also in August, Burtree Lakes had an open day and kindly allowed us to have a hamper and a raffle stall for church funds.

We would also like to thank Suzanne Stirke who kindly came to launch her book 'No Mans Moor' in November. The evening included a pie and pea supper along with a bar and raffle, which were enjoyed along with an exhibition of village documents and photographs of Crakehall from Myra. This evening was again to help raise funds for the Clock Fund.

In October we held a Gift Day. The church was open, and refreshments were served to welcome villagers and encourage regular giving.

Monthly coffee mornings were kindly hosted in church by different members of the congregation and a soup and roll lunch was enjoyed in November.

## Financial review

Our annual accounts have been prepared using the Receipts and Payments method. This report illustrates our financial position at our year end 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023.

The figures in the accompanying tables (Appendix 1) are supported by full records of expenditure and receipts. The total funds available in on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 were £11,354, compared to £10,145 in 2022 and £13,403 in 2021. This comprised: £2,850 which were general and unrestricted (compared to £3,255 in 2023); and £8,533 which were designated for particular projects such as building improvements (compared to £4,589 in 2022) comprising mainly money raised for repairs to the clock. After the distribution of receipts for the cancelled Wydale Hall weekend there were no restricted funds left at the end of 2023 (compared to £2,300 in 2022) – in fact a small deficit of £29 in 2023 related to Youth Club activities which was resolved by additional grant aid from the Crakehall Educational Trust received in February 2024.

Income for the year was £27,036 and payments were £27,441 (comparable figures were £30,883 and £34,140 respectively in 2022 and £19,184 and £34,140 and £60,367 in 2021). The levels of income and expenditure in the last two years are comparable - the lower levels of both receipts and payments in 2023 are largely accounted for by the fact that in 2022 the Church, on behalf of the whole Benefice, acted as the receiver and distributor of a one-off Energy Support Grant to other Parishes in 2022.

Church giving either directly to the bank or on the plate at services raised £15,320 in 2023 (compared to £14,553 in the previous year). This includes money donated by people using the Parish Giving Scheme (£2,300), and it also includes £445 donated using the SumUp card reader which was acquired in 2022. A significant amount was raised as tax recoverable on gift aid (£5,835), although part of this related to contributions made in the previous financial year.

Additional money was raised for the repair of the clock (£3,564) bringing the total amount in the Clock Fund up to £8,013. A faculty has been sought from the Diocese to proceed with these works and inquiries have been made with external bodies about the possibility of additional grant aid to enable the project to proceed, hopefully in 2024.

The PCC has continued to meet its obligations throughout the year including paying a Parish Share request from the Diocese of £14,833.

The Share for 2023 has been set at £15,790.

The cost of energy (electricity and gas) rose slightly from £748 in 2021 to £1,087 in 2022, but in 2023 the cost increased to £3,044. This reflects both increased costs and greater usage (a donation of £300 was received for the craft classes which helps with this). A grant of £900 from the Diocese received towards the end of 2022 assisted us in meeting the increased charges for energy in early 2023, but this has not been repeated.

The Crakehall PCC funds were held in an account with Barclays Bank. The amount of interest received from the Barclays online savings account in 2023 was £52.37.

The online payments process, which was instigated in 2020, continued to operate smoothly in 2023, with Mary Bishop-Hunt providing the second authorization of payments to suppliers etc. Angus Maude was responsible for reclaiming gift aid from HMRC.

The accounts for 2023 have been reviewed by Jess Randall, Independent Examiner (see attached report). I am most grateful for Jess in undertaking this work.

## Reserves policy

It is PCC policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds that equates to at least three months' unrestricted payments. Based on pre-covid 2019 expenditure, this is equivalent to £6,390. It is held to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet emergencies. The cash balance of £2,850 held on unrestricted funds at the year-end fell short of this.

## Volunteers

We would like to thank all volunteers who make our Church the lively and vibrant community it is, in particular, the Churchwarden, Gill Bartram and the PCC.

Although Myra Shield stood down as a Churchwarden, she still works tirelessly for the church along with a regular team of volunteer organisers and helpers involved in all aspects of worship. Organists and musicians, Graham Bishop-Hunt, Peter Gaven and Trevor Starkey. Sound reproduction, refreshments, organising the reading and intercession rota, readers and intercessors themselves, flower arranging and upkeep of the building and grounds.



The Lay Worship Leaders are Myra Shield and Pauline Irwin. They are regularly involved in Services of Morning Prayer and Pauline is also part of the Simply Together worship team as are Dan Wilkins and Paul Durrant along with Liz Ramsay who help with childrens' activities at this service.

Pat Manners opens the church every morning and Stuart Shield locks the church each night.

We are also indebted to everyone who assists when special fundraisers are held.

## Deanery Synod Report

The Incumbent sits on the Wensley Deanery Synod, there remain two lay vacancies. This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the church.

This year has been dominated by discussion of the Barnabas Project. The aim was to allow the subject to be thoroughly discussed with feedback from PCCs, and actions undertaken.

This year has seen the Deanery continue with a full complement of clergy.

Throughout the year the Deanery Synod met four times: -

15<sup>th</sup> February by Zoom

6<sup>th</sup> June St Gregory's Church, Bedale

13<sup>th</sup> September St Matthew's Church, Leyburn

23<sup>rd</sup> November by Zoom

There have been presentations on:

### **Introduction to The Barnabas Project**

Speaker: Rev'd Jude Smith, Director of Church Revitalization introduced the Barnabas Project - Barnabas: Encouraging Confidence.

Two explanatory power points were shown, and discussion followed.

### **The Barnabas Project: The Theology of Barnabas**

Bob Mathews shared a PowerPoint Slide he had prepared on screen and Rev'd Chris Lawton gave a short Presentation. Members split into groups and discussed ways of sharing ideas with what they already have, new ways of thinking and how to build each other up.

Ideas are to be shared and discussed at PCC meetings and reported back.

### **The Barnabas Project: The Theology of Barnabas - Feedback from PCCs**

Representatives described the many ways PCCs had looked at the Barnabas project, ranging from public exhibitions to uniting parishes and improving governance.

Bob Mathews and Angus Maude outlined some work they had been doing around collective Deanery building maintenance. This is work in progress and there will be further feedback in the future.

Bob Mathews reported on meetings he had been attending about changes to lay ministry training. Once again work in progress.

### **The Barnabas Project: The Theology of Barnabas**

The Deanery Barnabas Away Day was confirmed. Details of the day and expectations were outlined.

### **Events**

The following Deanery events were undertaken: -

Ascension Day Open Air joint service with the Methodists at Jervaulx Abbey.

Members of the Deanery supported the Wensleydale Show with the Church about the Dale 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 Gregory'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 PCC met on four occasions during the year in January, March, May (APCM) and September. In addition, the standing committee met in August and there were gathered PCC meetings in February, March, June, September and November which were attended by most of the PCC members. 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 and Crakehall PCC has always been well represented.

## **Administrative information**

St Gregory'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 2022) and a charity currently excepted from registration with the Charity Commission. Attendance at meetings has been good and there have been no changes to the Council during this year.

## **Ex-Officio Members**

The Incumbent Revd R D C Lawton

### **Wardens**

- Mrs Gillian Bartram
- One Seat Vacant

### **Deanery Synod Representative**

- Mr Angus Maude - Vice Chair
- One Seat Vacant

## **Elected Members**

- Mary Bishop-Hunt - Secretary
- Richard Blows – Treasurer
- Myra Shield
- Stuart Shield
- Trevor Starkey
- One Seat Vacant

## **Electoral Roll**

There were 50 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll, of whom 13 are not resident within the parish.

## **Trustees Annual Report Approval**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Lawton', written in a cursive style.

Approved by the PCC on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2024  
and signed on their behalf by the Reverend Chris Lawton (PCC chairman)



## Appendix 1

### ST GREGORY'S CRAKEHALL PCC

#### Balance sheet (Summary) As at: 31 December 2023

	As at 31/12/2023	As at 31/12/2022
	£	£
<b>Current assets</b>		
Stocks and work in progress	91	91
Cash at bank and in hand	11,262	10,053
	<u>11,354</u>	<u>10,145</u>
<b>Net current assets less current liabilities</b>	<u>11,354</u>	<u>10,145</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>	<u>11,354</u>	<u>10,145</u>
<b>Total net assets less liabilities</b>	<u>11,354</u>	<u>10,145</u>
<b>Represented by</b>		
<b>Unrestricted</b>		
Unrestricted - General fund	2,850	3,255
<b>Designated</b>		
Designated - Building Clock Project	8,013	4,449
Designated - Crakehall Educational Trust	22	140
Designated - Mission and Retreats	497	—
<b>Restricted</b>		
Restricted - WYDALE HALL	—	1,852
Restricted - YOUTH CLUB	(29)	448
<b>Funds of the church</b>	<u>11,354</u>	<u>10,145</u>

*There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown*

ST GREGORY'S CRAKEHALL PCC

Balance Sheet detailed

	As at 31/12/2023	As at 31/12/2022
<b>Current assets</b>		
6501: Bank current account	3,481	3,047
6505: Bank deposit account	7,701	6,976
6590: Cash in hand	79	29
6594: Debtors and prepayments	—	—
6595: Tuck shop stock	91	91
Z05: Accounts Receivable	—	—
<b>Total Current assets</b>	<b>11,354</b>	<b>10,145</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
6610: Accrued expenses	—	—
Z04: Accounts Payable	—	—
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>Net Asset surplus (deficit)</b>	<b>11,354</b>	<b>10,145</b>
<b>Reserves</b>		
Excess / (deficit) to date	1,209	—
Z01: Starting balances	10,145	10,145
<b>Total Reserves</b>	<b>11,354</b>	<b>10,145</b>

Represented by...		
Unrestricted	2,850	3,255
Designated	8,533	4,589
Restricted	(29)	2,300
Endowment	—	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,354</b>	<b>10,145</b>

*There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown*

**ST GREGORY'S CRAKEHALL PCC**

**Analysis of receipts and payments**

**Selected period: 01 January 2023 to 31 December 2023**

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Total Last year
<b>Receipts</b>						
<b>Receipts from generated funds</b>						
<b>Voluntary income</b>						
0101 - Gift Aid - Bank	5,601	—	—	—	5,601	6,634
0110 - Gift Aid - Envelopes	2,684	—	—	—	2,684	3,789
0201 - Other planned giving	2,300	—	—	—	2,300	600
0301 - Loose plate collections	4,734	10	—	—	4,744	3,530
0302 - Loose plate collections not GASDS	178	—	—	—	178	29
0401 - Regular gift days	290	—	—	—	290	—
0410 - Giving through church boxes	—	—	—	—	—	42
0501 - One-off Gift Aid gifts	—	—	—	—	—	—
0510 - Gifts of quoted securities	—	—	—	—	—	—
0540 - Donations Appeals Gift Aided (Craft Club)	300	—	—	—	300	4,625
0550 - Donations appeals etc	460	3,765	—	—	4,225	1,007
0601 - Tax recoverable on Gift Aid	5,835	—	—	—	5,835	883
0701 - Legacies	210	—	—	—	210	—
0801 - Recurring grants	—	—	—	—	—	—
08A1 - Non-recurring one-off grants	320	211	—	—	531	5,700
0901 - Other funds generated	—	—	89	—	89	1,009
<b>Voluntary income Sub-totals</b>	<b>22,915</b>	<b>3,987</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>26,992</b>	<b>27,852</b>
<b>Activities for generating funds</b>						
0910 - Fund raising sales etc	—	—	—	—	—	600
0920 - Tuck shop sales (Chocolate bars)	15	—	—	—	15	—
<b>Activities for generating funds Sub-totals</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>600</b>
<b>Investment income</b>						
1001 - Dividends	—	—	—	—	—	—
1020 - Bank and building society interest	34	18	—	—	52	1
1030 - Rent from lands or buildings	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Investment income Sub-totals</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Receipts from generated funds Totals</b>	<b>22,964</b>	<b>4,005</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>27,060</b>	<b>28,454</b>

*There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown*

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Last year
<b>Receipts from charitable activities</b>						
Receipts from charitable activities						
1101 - Fees for weddings and funerals	4,072	—	—	—	4,072	2,428
Receipts from charitable activities Sub-totals	4,072	—	—	—	4,072	2,428
<b>Receipts from charitable activities Totals</b>	<b>4,072</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>4,072</b>	<b>2,428</b>
<b>Receipts Grand totals</b>	<b>27,036</b>	<b>4,005</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>31,132</b>	<b>30,883</b>

### Payments

#### Cost of generating funds

##### Cost of generating voluntary income

1701 - Fees paid to fund raisers	7	1	—	—	9	—
1710 - Costs of applying for grants	—	—	—	—	—	—
1720 - Costs of stewardship campaign	—	—	—	—	—	—
1730 - Costs of fetes & other events	307	227	—	—	534	586
1740 - Investment management costs	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cost of generating voluntary income Sub-totals	314	229	—	—	543	586

#### Cost of generating funds Totals

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Total Last year
Cost of generating funds Totals	314	229	—	—	543	586

#### Charitable activities

##### Charitable activities

1801 - Giving to missionary societies	352	—	—	—	352	616
1830 - Giving - relief and development agencies	80	—	—	—	80	—
1850 - Home mission	846	—	—	—	846	1,780
1870 - Secular charities	532	—	—	—	532	1,162
1910 - Ministry parish share etc	14,833	—	—	—	14,833	13,935
1920 - Statutory fees paid to DBF	733	—	—	—	733	883
1930 - Deanery Levy	103	—	—	—	103	90
2001 - Assistant staff costs	—	—	—	—	—	—
2050 - Salary of parish administrator	—	—	—	—	—	—
2101 - Working expenses of incumbent	1,172	—	—	—	1,172	1,781
2201 - Parish training and mission	—	—	—	—	—	—
2211 - Youth Club Expenses	—	211	567	—	779	324
2301 - Church running - insurance	1,364	—	—	—	1,364	1,289
2310 - Church office - telephone	—	—	—	—	—	—
2320 - Organ / piano tuning	274	—	—	—	274	372
2330 - Church maintenance	1,333	—	—	—	1,333	1,549
2331 - Cleaning	655	—	—	—	655	535
2340 - Upkeep of services	300	—	—	—	300	1,059
2350 - Upkeep of churchyard	—	—	—	—	—	96
2360 - Administration	321	117	1,355	—	1,793	4,902

2370 - Visiting speakers / locums	—	—	—	—	—	—
2380 - Organist	1,140	—	—	—	1,140	935
2390 - Vergers fee	—	—	—	—	—	—
2401 - Church running - electric	1,534	—	—	—	1,534	538
2410 - Church running - gas	1,510	—	—	—	1,510	549
2420 - Church running - water	—	—	—	—	—	—
2701 - Church major repairs - structure	—	—	—	—	—	—
2710 - Church major repairs - installation	—	—	—	—	—	1,154
2720 - Church interior and exterior decorating	—	—	—	—	—	—

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Total Last year
<b>Charitable activities Sub-totals</b>	<b>27,087</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>1,922</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>29,339</b>	<b>33,554</b>
<b>Charitable activities Totals</b>	<b>27,087</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>1,922</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>29,339</b>	<b>33,554</b>
<b>Governance costs</b>						
<b>Governance costs</b>						
2601 - Governance costs examination/audit fee	40	—	—	—	40	—
<b>Governance costs Sub-totals</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>Governance costs Totals</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>Payments</b>	<b>27,441</b>	<b>558</b>	<b>1,922</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>29,923</b>	<b>34,140</b>
<b>Grand totals</b>						

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Saint Gregory's Church, Crakehall**

I report on the financial statements of the Church for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 which are set out on the previous pages.

**Respective Responsibilities of the Trustees**

The Church Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. The Church's trustees consider that an audit is not required this year under Section 145 (1)(a) of the Charities Act 2011 and that an independent examination is required.

**Respective responsibility of the independent examiner:**

To examine the financial statement under Section 145 (1)(a) of the Charities Act 2011.

To follow the procedure laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145 (3) of the 2011 act.

To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of the independent examiner's report:**


My examination has been carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting record kept by the charity and a comparison of the financial statement presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanation from the Treasurer concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given whether the financial statement present a true and fair view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

**Independent Examiners Statement:**

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

- To keep accounting records in accordance with section 137 of the 2011 Act; and
- To prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 act have not been met; or
- To which in my opinion attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

Signed



Dated

22/2/24

Jessica Randall, 2 West Terrace, Crakehall, DL8 1HW



## Appendix 2 Rectors Report

2023 was a year filled with opportunities to serve our communities here in Lower Wensleydale as we continue to explore a post covid world. The start of the year still saw reluctance for people to join in with services and events, however over the course of the year the situation significantly improved. Whilst not back to pre-Covid levels we are starting to see an uptick in attendance and involvement.

As a benefice, we continue to grow together and for that I am deeply grateful. We saw a larger than normal number of occasional offices this year with 18 baptisms, 6 young people confirmed, 1 wedding blessing, 10 weddings, and 40 funeral ministries. I am very grateful to all who have helped with these important services.

We continued in our effort to achieve full 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 roll 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.