



2024

# Annual Report

## St Oswald's Hauxwell

For the Period January to December 2023

## 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, Hauxwell.

## 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 Oswald's, Hauxwell.

## 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, Hauxwell 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 services. 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 fabric of the church building remains in exceedingly poor condition. As noted in the Quinquennial Inspection water ingress through the failed Chancel roof is now causing ongoing and serious damage.

We have requested that the building be placed on the 'At Risk Register' as we have been advised this may open up funding to assist with the estimated £70,000 needed to replace the roof.

## 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.

## Safeguarding

There were no safeguarding issues to report.

Only one current member of the PCC held a 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 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023

Total receipts	£ 8,892
Total payments	£ 8,684
Our total financial assets at the end of the year were	£22,412.
Comprising	
Barclays Current Account	£16,467
Investment Fund shares	£ 5,945

### Receipts

Although these figures appear to be relatively healthy, they continue to give cause for concern. Whilst regular service collections have remained stable with only an extremely small congregation these are still falling far short of the need of our Parish.

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, here at Hauxwell it represents just over 9%, which is a fall of 2% on 2022.

Our thanks go to those who support us financially on a regular basis and having registered with the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) in 2023 we were delighted to receive several one-off donations via this system. We would strongly encourage newcomers to St Oswald's and those living within the Parish to become members of the PGS on a regular basis to support the work of the church. For more information on the PGS, please visit [www.parishgiving.org.uk](http://www.parishgiving.org.uk).

### Payments

This year the Diocesan Share Request was £5,970 and the PCC were able to make a contribution of £1,791, but this only represents 30% of the total.

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 if not regularly paid in full. More information about the Diocesan Share system can be found by visiting [www.leeds.anglican.org](http://www.leeds.anglican.org).

At £8,684 our total expenditure was more than twice that of the previous year. This was mainly due to payments to our architects for both their initial work on the re-roofing of the chancel and the Quinquennial Inspection and also our payment towards the Diocesan Share. However, at £1,524 our largest single payment continues to be for insuring St Oswald's.

### Reserves policy

It is PCC policy to try to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds that equates to at least three months' unrestricted payments to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet emergencies. In 2023 this was equivalent to £2,171. The cash balance of £16,467 held on unrestricted funds at the year-end more than adequately meets these aims.

However, following a Quinquennial Inspection this year the PCC is very conscious of the need to continue to build reserves in order to afford the urgent and costly work that is required on the building, particularly the Chancel roof.

## 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 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 Oswald's, Hauxwell 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 in May (APCM), and October.

There were also gathered PCC meetings for all 6 parishes of the Benefice in February, March, June, September, and November. Each month, there have been Leader's meeting/Conference calls via PhoneChurch or meeting in person at St Gregory's, Crakehall 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 2022) and a charity currently excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

### Ex-Officio Members

The Incumbent  
Revd R D C Lawton

Wardens  
2 Vacant Seats

Deanery Synod  
1 Vacant Seat

### Elected members

Rosi Keatinge

Gay Forth

Judith Gowland

3 Vacant Seats

### Officer

Paul Carnell (Treasurer)

## Electoral Roll

There were 16 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll, of whom 11 are not resident within the parish.

## Trustees Annual Report Approval



Approved by the PCC on 12/04/2024  
and signed on their behalf by the Reverend Chris Lawton (PCC chairman)

## Appendix 1

Parochial Church Council of St. Oswald's Church, Hauxwell

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

Receipts and Payments Accounts

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2023 £	TOTAL 2022 £
<b>RECEIPTS</b>					
<b>Voluntary Receipts:</b>					
Planned giving		820	-	820	860
Collections at Services		2,594	-	2,594	2,765
All other giving/voluntary receipts	1a	1,803	-	1,803	1,391
Gift Aid recovered		1,507	-	1,507	1,258
		<u>6,725</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,725</u>	<u>6,274</u>
<b>Activities for generating funds</b>		180	-	180	240
<b>Investment income</b>		162	-	162	162
<b>Church activities</b>	1b	1,824	-	1,824	1,374
<b>Other Receipts</b>		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total receipts</b>		<u>8,892</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,892</u>	<u>8,050</u>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>					
<b>Church activities:</b>					
Diocesan parish contribution		1,700	-	1,700	-
Clergy and staffing costs		461	-	461	302
Church running expenses	2a	4,200	-	4,200	2,568
Church Repairs & maintenance	2b	2,231	-	2,231	713
Mission giving and donations		-	-	-	-
		<u>8,592</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,592</u>	<u>3,582</u>
<b>Cost of generating funds</b>		<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total payments</b>		<u>8,593</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,593</u>	<u>3,582</u>
<b>Excess of Receipts over Payments</b>		<b>298</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>4,468</b>
Cash at bank and in hand at 1 January		<u>16,260</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>16,260</u>	<u>11,792</u>
Cash at bank and in hand at 31 December		<u>16,558</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>16,558</u>	<u>16,260</u>

Parochial Church Council of St. Oswald's Church, Hauxwell

**Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2023 £	TOTAL 2022 £
<b>Cash Funds</b>				
Barclays Current Account	16,558	-	16,558	16,260
	<u>16,558</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>16,558</u>	<u>16,260</u>
<b>Investment Assets</b>				
Investment Fund shares at bid market value	5,945	-	5,945	5,430
	<u>5,945</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,945</u>	<u>5,430</u>
<b>Total financial assets</b>	<b><u>22,503</u></b>	<b><u>0</u></b>	<b><u>22,503</u></b>	<b><u>21,689</u></b>
<b>Liabilities</b>				
Outstanding Diocesan Parish contribution			4,270	5,544
			<u>4,270</u>	<u>5,544</u>

Further Analysis of Receipts and Payments	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2023 £	TOTAL 2022 £
<b>Receipts</b>				
<b>1a All other giving/voluntary receipts</b>				
General donations	1,139	-	1,139	895
Donations Box	97	-	97	46
via the Parish Giving Scheme	68	-	68	-
Church Commissioners Energy Grant	-	-	-	450
Gift from Bedale PCC to help pay Parish Share	500	-	500	-
	<u>1,803</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,803</u>	<u>1,391</u>
<b>1b Church activities</b>				
Fees for weddings	620	-	620	324
Fees for funerals	1,062	-	1,062	915
Fees for monuments	142	-	142	135
	<u>1,824</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,824</u>	<u>1,374</u>
<b>2a Church running expenses</b>				
Electricity	999	-	999	211
Oil	399	-	399	-
Insurance	1,524	-	1,524	1,450
Upkeep of services	35	-	35	70
Upkeep of Churchyard	600	-	600	640
Benefice expenses	113	-	113	164
Other church running expenses	530	-	530	33
	<u>4,200</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,200</u>	<u>2,568</u>
<b>2b Church repairs and maintenance</b>				
Regular maintenance	47	-	47	66
Fence	-	-	-	647
Electrical works	445	-	445	-
Architect's fees (re-roofing Chancel)	780	-	780	-
Quinquennial Inspection	959	-	959	-
	<u>2,231</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,231</u>	<u>713</u>



## 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, especially Rosi, Dyno and Marj.

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 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.