

2024

Annual Report

St Michael and All Angels
Spennithorne

For the Period January to December 2023

Aims and purposes.

St Michael and All Angels 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 Michael and All Angels Church, Spennithorne.

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 Michael and All Angels, Spennithorne.

Achievements and performance

Worship and prayer.

The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and the benefice, to which St Michael and All Angels, Spennithorne 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 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, Julie our Lay Worship Leader, 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 overall sound condition. However as noted in the Quinquennial Inspection water ingress through the gable ends continues to cause drips and is damaging the internal plasterwork in places.

Unfortunately, we have not been able to complete work on the Vestry walls and redecorating same. The delay in replacing the tiles in the kitchen is mainly due to difficulties in getting Contractors to provide the necessary quotes, we are hopeful this work will be carried out in 2024.

The Weathervane has been removed from the tower; any repairs/alterations are being held in abeyance at the present time. The Heating system was not serviced as the Contractor did not respond to any messages left on his 'phone, eventually he did come out when the boiler would not start up – an invoice for this 'call out' has not yet been received.

Mission and evangelism

Events continue to play a key part in serving our community and promoting the work of the Parish. Events organised included:

- Summer Fete
- Quiz
- Coffee Morning
- Musical Events
- Christmas Tree Display

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.

School

Links with the village primary school, which is part of a two-school federation, continue to improve. The school held their Harvest Service in the church this year and also contributed decorated trees for the tree festival.

Safeguarding

There were no safeguarding issues to report.

One member of the PCC needs to renew their DBS all other members of the PCC held valid DBS checks.

Financial review

Total receipts £23,243.42

Total payments £22,414.55

Receipts

Regular giving £ 7,668.95

Collections at Services £ 5,433.75

All other giving and voluntary receipts £ 1,342.25

Gift Aid recovered £ 3,425.91

Fund raising £ 2,187.57

Fees retained by the PCC (Weddings and Funerals) £1,128.00 Unrestricted – Restricted £1,250.00.

The Church receives statutory fees from the Diocese Board of Finance for weddings and funerals i.e. service in church, plus local fees i.e. Rector's travel expenses, vergers, heating, organist. Those acting as Verger over the past year did not claim a fee therefore it remains in church funds.

A Benefice Share Grant of £500.00 was received from Bedale PCC.

There was an increase in the interest received from money invested in respect of the Organ and Fabric Funds amounting to £306.99. With effect from July 2023 CCLA appointed FNZ as its transfer agent, who will process all transactions in the funds, record changes to records and distribute interest/dividends.

Payments

The Diocesan Share request of £13,048.00 and the Deanery Levy of £90.00 were paid in full.

There was an increase of £173.39 for heating and electricity, an increase of £146.37 for Insurance.

The invoice for organ repairs carried out in 2021 was only received in 2023, hence the delay in payment.

Electrical repairs to lighting have been carried out along with the annual servicing of the clock and fire extinguishers.

Benefice expenses are initially paid by Patrick Brompton PCC, and are claimed at intervals, these include the Rector's expenses, Benefice expenses (split by percentage) plus individual church expenses, this year's invoices covered the period October 2022 to September 2023.

Disbursements to Charities are mainly at the request of relatives being half of the collection received at funerals. Part of the Remembrance Sunday collection was forwarded to the Poppy Appeal.

Mainly due to dampness in the church, plastic storage boxes have been purchased to hold the various service booklets.

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. This was equivalent to £6,499. The cash balance of £ 12,877.29 held in unrestricted funds at the year-end more than adequately meets these aims.

Volunteers

We would like to thank all volunteers who make our church the lively and vibrant community it is, in particular the choir and the PCC. We are most grateful to our organist who does not accept payment for normal weekly services, also to the 'bell ringer' and the two 'clock winders'- greatly appreciated.

We are also indebted to everyone who assists when special events are held and those who clean and decorate the church with flowers.

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: -

15th February by Zoom

6th June St Gregory's Church, Bedale

13th September St Matthew's Church, Leyburn

23rd 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 Michael and All Angels, Spennithorne 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, May (APCM), August and November. 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 Michael and All Angels 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

- Mrs Julie Morton Lee (til May)
- 2 Vacant Seats

Deanery Synod

- Mrs Norma Croft (Treasurer, Secretary)
- 1 Vacant Seat

Elected members:

- Mr Digby Angus
- Mr Graham Crocker
- Mrs Margaret Crocker
- 3 Vacant Seats
- Mr George Molyneaux (til May)
- Mrs Enid Molyneaux (til May)
- Mr Michael Morton Lee (til May)

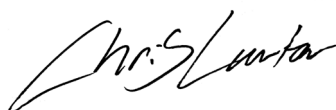
Electoral Roll

There were 25 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll, of whom 8 are not resident within the parish.

Bank

The PCC banks with - HSBC 77 Market Place, Thirsk. YO7 1EU

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 Independent Examiner's Report

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of St Michael and All Angels Parochial Church Council

I report on the accounts of the Church for the year ended 31st December 2023 which are set out on the attached pages of this report.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and the Independent Examiner

The church's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The church's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts (under section 145 of the 2011 Act);
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act); and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented 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 no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present 'a true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no 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 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act 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.



(P E REED)

ACIB.

(Relevant professional qualification or body)

Hargill Close, Hamby

16/3/2024.

ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS CHURCH SPENNITHORNE
Receipts and Payments Financial Statement
for the year ending 31st December 2023

<u>RECEIPTS</u>				<u>PAYMENTS</u>	
2022		2023		2022	2023
£20,233.45	BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD	£23,836.71			
<u>VOLUNTARY RECEIPTS</u>			<u>SHARE PAYMENTS</u>		
£9,965.00	Planned Giving - Gift Aid	£5,324.00		£11,862.00	Leeds DB Finance £13,048.00
£84.00	" - other	£28.00			
£2,137.24	PGS Donations	£2,316.95		£77.00	Deanery Levy £90.00
£5,545.45	Plate collections	£5,373.75			
£415.00	Gift Aid (unplanned)	£60.00		£436.00	Wedding Fees £229.00
£51.16	Wall safe	£7.50			
£1,355.00	Personal and sundry donatio	£1,334.75		<u>CHURCH AND SERVICES</u>	
£3,657.99	HM Revenue Tax reclaimed	£2,834.30		£2,025.88	Heating and Electricity £2,199.27
£534.34	PGS Tax Gift Aid	£591.61	£17,870.86	£2,895.92	Insurance £3,042.29
				£498.00	Clearing Gutters/Drains -
				-	Organ Repairs (2021) £180.00
					<u>Servicing/Testing</u>
				£1,380.13	Electrical Testing/Repairs £97.44
				£473.00	Protection/Fire extinguishers/Clock £268.80
				£189.99	Vac Cleaner (purchased) -
				£7.75	Communion Wine £7.85
				£18.08	Photocopier £20.51
				£34.24	Fire Extinguisher./Carbon Monox. alarm -
				£95.73	Display items/Printer Ink/Tea lights -
				-	Storage Boxes £54.95
				£1,353.06	Benefice Expenses £1,082.35
				£133.87	Bank Charges 122.99
				£735.00	Organist fees (Services) -
				£785.00	Organist fees (Weddings/Funerals) £600.00
				£52.65	Rector's Travel Exp. {Wdgs/Funerals) -
				£4.05	Travel Exp. Funeral -
					<u>OTHER EXPENSES</u>
				-	Events Expenses £40.00
				£966.24	Professional fees – Quinquennial -
					<u>PAYMENTS TO CHARITIES</u>
				£1,972.06	Schedule 2 £1,331.10
					<u>RESTRICTED USE RECEIPTS - Schedule 1</u>
					Organ Fund
£28.60	" - Interest C B Fund	£70.61			
					<u>CLOSING BALANCES</u>
£95.75	" - Interest C B Fun	£236.38	306.99	£14,258.16	Current Account £12,877.29
				£9,578.55	CB Fund £11,788.29
<u>£49,832.36</u>			<u>£47,080.13</u>	<u>£49,832.36</u>	<u>£47,080.13</u>

**St. Michael and All Angels Church Spennithorne
Balances year ending 31st December 2023**

BALANCES

HSBC Current Account

Bank reconciliation

Balance at 31.12.23 £13,024.29

less unrepresented cheque No.102347 -£147.00

Balance £12,877.29

CBF Fund Church of England Deposit Fund

Restricted Use Funds:

Organ £2,273.12

Fabric £7,612.42

Sub total £9,885.54

Fabric Fund (Transfer from HSBC Account) £1,902.75

Balance £11,788.29

St. Michael & All Angels Parochial Church Council Spennithorne

for year ending 31st December 2023

Payments to Charities

PAYMENTS TO CHARITIES

PAYMENT TO CHARITY MADE BY THE PCC

Poppy Appeal	<u>£113.35</u>
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PAYMENT AGENTS FOR RESTRICTED USE CHARITABLE DONATIONS

Funeral collections paid to charities at the request of relatives

Sir Robert Ogden Macmillan Centre Northallerton	£257.25
Yorkshire Air Ambulance	£266.75
Great North Air Ambulance	£266.75
Camphill Village Fund	£165.50
Alzheimer's Society	£114.50
Care UK	<u>£147.00</u>
	<u>£1,217.75</u>

Total payments to Charities £1331.10

31st December 2023

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
31st December 2023

ASSETS

CASH ASSETS

1 Current Account as at 31 st December 2023	General Fund	£12,877.29
2 Cash in hand as at 31 st December 2023		Nil
3 CB Fund as at 31 st December 2023:		£11,788.29

This includes restricted use funds as follows:

a.	Organ Fund	£2,273.12
b.	Fabric Fund	<u>£9,515.17</u>
		<u>£11,788.29</u>

FIXED ASSETS

- 1 Inventory assets vested in the Churchwardens on special trust.
- 2 One Richo printer (housed at Mill Lodge) . Purchased July 2010 costing £1404.12.
- 3 Grounds maintenance equipment: one petrol lawnmower and one two-stroke strimmer.

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.

School Governors Report

None submitted as we continue to seek a volunteer to take on this role on behalf of the Rector.